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Inter-Arab Affairs

Tripartite Groups's Communique on Mu'awwad Death

LD2311222489 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 23 Nov 89

[Communique by Arab Higher Tripartite Committee on the death of Lebanese President Rene Mu'awwad; issued 23 November]

[Text] The Arab Higher Tripartite Committee expresses its deep pain due to and great denounciation of the assassination of Professor Rene Mu'awwad, his excellency the president of the Lebanese Republic, following the heinous aggression which, through the person of the president, was aimed at harming what the deceased symbolized: a trend toward the realization of the unity and sovereignty of Lebanon and the return of peace to Lebanon.

The committee offers the family of the deceased, Lebanese officials, and the Lebanese people its sincerest condolences on the death of the great man.

The committee wants to voice its firm conviction that the appalling loss will not dent the Lebanese people's determination to follow the march it has begun to terminate the 15-year long ordeal, a march that was marked by the recent meeting of the Lebanese parliament on Lebanese territory to elect President Rene Mu'awwad.

The committee also expresses its hope that the Lebanese people, with all its sections and institutions, primary among which the parliament which has retrieved its role completely, will be inspired by the very appalling nature of the loss to meet the requirements of national duty, namely a firm stand in the face of these sinful forces that seek to take Lebanon backward so that it may remain a victim to sedition, chaos, fragmentation, and divisions.

The committee is looking forward to the efficient role that the Lebanese spiritual authorities should play to bring back peace and communal life in a unified, sovereign, and independent Lebanon.

The committee reiterates its commitment to pursuing its mission to strengthen this march and offers all the contributions required from it to take Lebanon out of its ordeal, in accordance with the decision of the Arab summit conference held in Casablanca and the resolutions issued by the committee.

The committee has decided to charge, Lakhdar Ibrahimi, its envoy in Lebanon, to represent it at the deceased president's funeral on 25 November.

Palestinian Affairs

London Paper Interviews Yasir 'Arafat

PM2411101189 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 24 Nov 89 pp 20-22

[Interview with "Palestinian President" Yasir 'Arafat by Milhim Karam in Tunis "last Saturday morning"]

[Text] Milhim Karam: Your Excellency the President, today we witness the first anniversary of the birth of the Palestinian state and the start of the 3d year of the intifadah [uprising]. What memories does that bring back?

President 'Arafat: First I must recall the attempts they [not further identified] made to eliminate the "Palestinian factor" from the Middle East balance after they thought they had eliminated it. Many attempts were made to hit the Palestinian people's unity inside and outside and at many levels, but they were all destroyed on the solid rock of the unity of our masses, strugglers, fighters, and cadres. Many thought we had ended after Beirut, lost our struggle and endurance, and abandoned our cause. But we left Lebanon more resolute and determined to recover our territory. In fact, I think what happened in Beirut was the seed and torch of the intifadah. Sweeping demonstrations started on 24 October 1986, and the occupied territories have been boiling ever since.

Then the waves continued, one intifadah after another, until the Arab summit was held in Amman and the masses in the occupied territories took to the streets with a violent tone and strong determination. Then the Israeli Council of Ministers was convened on 28 November 1987 and decided to use an iron fist and turn to violence. At that time I issued a statement spelling things out. Then Gaza, followed by the West Bank, exploded into the sweeping intifadah which is still escalating and growing. That intifadah will not not stop until the last Israeli soldier leaves Arab land.

As for the establishment of the Palestinian state, I must say that the proclamation of Palestine's independence has superseded the Basel conference held in Switzerland in 1897, which announced its famous saying: "A land without people for a people without a land." That is, the Palestinian land without a people for the Jewish people, who have no homeland. The intifadah has said loudly: This land has its legitimate owners and it is called the Palestinian state.

Milhim Karam: The Gaza military operation occurred on this joint anniversary. Does that represent a new development and new phase, namely the use of arms by the Palestinian side?

President 'Arafat: I would like to say something here, something which I conveyed to officials, including the members of the troika—the three European ministers: The incredible thing is that until now our masses have

been committed to the appeal I launched, that is, not to resort to arms in the intifadah, especially as Israel is using poison gas to abort women, as reported by doctors, including U.S. doctors who examined the cases and confirmed that the gas was not tear gas as they claim. Add to this the repeated attacks on the Islamic and Christian sanctities in Bayt Sahur, Bethlehem, Jerusalem, and Hebron—which makes the Israelis' attitudes worse than those of the Nazis.

Putting an end to these attitudes depends on an international stand, in particular a U.S. one, because the United States is protecting Israeli arrogance and the continuation of clashes and aggression in the occupied territory. This is why you should not be surprised if a military response like that one occurs from time to time. I say this to the world public, which I believe understands me: Patience has limits.

Milhim Karam: Over the year which has elapsed since the state was proclaimed you conducted many moves and activities. What have these moves offered you?

President 'Arafat: I would like first to point out that the fact that the Palestinian state has been recognized by over 117 states is not a mere coincidence. At the United Nations 141 voted for Palestine. Everyone says: An international peace conference under UN auspices leading to to the establishment of the Palestinian state, or the right to self-determination in every sense of the word, as Europe says. At the top of all these stances comes the stand taken recently by the pope. He said: The Palestinians are entitled to have a state just like Israel has a state.

The pope said: I will pray and struggle in order to lift the predicament on the shoulder of that people.

Milhim Karam: You have conducted active moves and numerous political dialogues. You went to Egypt three times in 1 week recently. During that time many views of Secretary Baker's points were expressed. What is the outcome of these activities? And what did you tell the Americans? And what did they tell you?

President 'Arafat: What happened was that we took a position at the Casablanca summit, that is, we adopted the Palestinian peace initiative, which received the blessing of the EEC and the quarters I referred to. Then President Mubarak presented an initiative designed to bring an Israeli delegation and a Palestinian delegation together in Cairo as a preliminary step toward convening the international conference. Then President Mubarak submitted 10 queries, which were called the 10 points, and some called the Egyptian initiative. [Egyptian Foreign Minister] Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid discussed them at the conference held recently in Tunis, where he called them queries. The Israeli Council of ministers voted on them and divided into two halves: Six for and six against. Regrettably, instead of backing those supporting the points the United States supported those who were opposed to them, that is Shamir. Then U.S. Secretary of State Baker presented five points. We submitted queries about these five points via the Egyptian Government. We received the response the day before yesterday, and we are now in permanent session to respond to Baker's letter, which is being studied by the Palestinian leadership.

Milhim Karam: What was the content of the response and what did Baker say? Just an idea, not specifically, if there is a reason for secrecy.

President 'Arafat: It dealt with views over the Palestinian-Israeli meeting proposed by President Mubarak, as well as an explanation of Baker's five points.

Milhim Karam: Shamir says that you have nothing to do with the formation of the Palestinian delegation. How do you visualize the formation of that delegation?

President 'Arafat: That statement is the height of impudence. I will respond to it by what Abba Eban said: Never in ancient or contemporary history has a party formed its enemy's delegation to negotiations between them. So if the speaker is mad, let the wise listen and judge.

Milhim Karam: Shamir also insists that the topic of the dialogue be confined only to the elections. How do you visualize the agenda?

President 'Arafat: An open agenda without any restriction or conditions. Either team may say what it wants, as Shultz said in his letter of 16 September 1983. And the same position was adopted by Baker, who pointed out that the Palestinian team and the Israeli president [as published] have the right to raise their views.

Milhim Karam: What is the position which you conveyed to the the United States?

President 'Arafat: I sent a message to President Bush 48 hours ago (the interview took place last Saturday morning). I told him that we welcome the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue proposed to be held in Cairo. Our Central Council, whose proceedings were held in Baghdad, endorsed the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue as a preliminary step toward an international conference. We also drew up our fixed principles from which we must proceed.

Milhim Karam: Will the proposed Cairo dialogue be confined to the two disputing teams, or will it be attended by the Security Council's five member states?

President 'Arafat: Nine actually: The interlocutors plus those five states, Egypt, and Sweden, according to Resolution 338, which recommended international sponsorship at Security Council level.

Milhim Karam: Is there any agreement in that regard?

President 'Arafat: That is our opinion of the position proposed.

Milhim Karam: It seems that the Soviets support every U.S. proposal: The international conference, the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue proposed by the Americans via President Mubarak. Do you still consider the Soviets your friends?

President 'Arafat: The recent resolution is the best proof of the soundness of the Soviet and French positions on the Palestinian issue. So the Soviets are great friends of ours, and there are joint working committees between us at all levels. They took a clear position on the Palestinian people's national rights, including their right to self-determination and to establish an independent state.

Milhim Karam: The Troika (the three European ministers) met with you recently, and you announced that there is only one legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, that is, the PLO and the state. How do you interpret the European position and the U.S. position?

President 'Arafat: There is disagreement between the U.S. position and the European position: While Europe, on the basis of the Madrid statement, is in favor of the convening of the international conference and the Palestinian people's right to self-determination in every sense of that right, the United States continues to hesitate about convening the international conference on the pretext of the timing. And it has still not recognized the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

Milhim Karam: Did you ask the three ministers to play a role with Washington?

President 'Arafat: Of course. But two states of that group are Security Council members, and they are entrusted by the EC—an influential authority—with what the EEC should do.

Milhim Karam: Your relations with Europe are still political in general terms. Have you thought about placing them within frameworks or committees?

President 'Arafat: On the contrary: I must point out that there is a permanent committee and permanent and regular meetings between us and the Troika. We met three times—once in Madrid and twice in Tunis this year—not to mention our relations with and visits to Paris, the Vatican, Madrid, Italy, Greece, Austria, Switzerland, Finland, and others. And we valued highly President Mitterrand's speech; it was the first time he had put his hand on the wound. He called the Palestinian people the wounded people, making reference to the oppression inflicted on that people. And we have a joint French-Palestinian committee.

Milhim Karam: The Casablanca summit gave full support for the PLO's political program....

President 'Arafat: (interrupting) No, no, no. In fact the Casablanca Arab summit espoused without any reservation the political program plus the Palestinian peace initiatives.

Milhim Karam: And adopted a resolution supporting the intifadah financially. Will that aid be implemented?

President 'Arafat: Regrettably, it has not been implemented as agreed but, rather, unseriously and partially in terms of finance.

Milhim Karam: What do do you want from the Arabs now?

President 'Arafat: I want them to put all their weight behind the intifadah both materially and politically and to employ their good ties with their international friends, especially the United States, in the interests of the Palestinian cause.

Milhim Karam: The day before yesterday [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine Secretary General] Dr George Habash announced his support for President Mitterrand's initiative and called for a just settlement on the basis of international legitimacy—a position consistent with your line. How would you assess your relations with the Popular Front and Dr George Habash?

President 'Arafat: The Popular Front is an integral part of the PLO. And it performs its activities at all levels and within the committees inside the PLO. They shoulder the responsibility with us. They are committed to the political line agreed in Algiers last year.

Milhim Karam: You have various channels of communication with the United States. According to our information, Ambassador Pelletreau is the only official channel that can be seen. What are the other channels?

President 'Arafat: Does anyone want to expose his cards? (laughing) And do not forget that we have Arab friends who intervene and mediate, and that the Swedish Government is an intermediary between us and the United States.

Milhim Karam: The first anniversary of the proclamation of the establishment of the Palestinian state means that a year has elapsed since your dialogue with the United States. What positive aspects have been achieved over that year?

President 'Arafat: Regrettably, the dialogue with the United States is still at a standstill.

Milhim Karam: Do you expect an imminent meeting with Secretary Baker and President Bush?

President 'Arafat: Such a meeting is not in my program, but undoubtedly if the time comes, we welcome it.

Milhim Karam: The Soviets proposed the convening of a quadripartite meeting (Russia, the United States, Palestine, and Israel), which you welcomed. Is there anything new in that regard?

President 'Arafat: The Israeli side did not respond to that proposal. We agreed and so did the Soviets, but

Israel did not. It was said that that required a courageous stand similar to that of President de Gaulle, but they do not have a de Gaulle there.

Milhim Karam: It is said that you met secretly with a senior Israeli official. Is that true? And, if not, are you ready to meet with Shamir without preconditions?

President 'Arafat: First, I have not met any Israeli officials. But do not forget that I said at the United Nations: I am looking for a de Gaulle among you so that we can hold talks between us under UN supervision. The people I need to make peace with are my enemies, not my friends.

Milhim Karam: If matters reach an impasse, especially as Shamir announced during his visit to Washington that "some friends' attempt to fill the gap between us and the PLO is designed to destroy Israel," what would you do?

President 'Arafat: Shamir will not stop his lies and false dreams. It is an attempt at blackmail which has now been rejected. He lives outside his age and does not understand the developments happening in the world, especially in Europe.

Milhim Karam: Your Excellency the President, you are 61 now....

President 'Arafat: Sixty, in fact.

Milhim Karam: You have spent 35 years working to serve the Palestinian cause....

President 'Arafat: No, by God, more than that. I left school in 1948 and went to defend Jerusalem. I was 18 when I finished my 11-month training.

Milhim Karam: To what do you aspire after all that struggle?

President 'Arafat: To what do I aspire? I see Jerusalem returning to us just as I see you in front of me. I see it in the awareness and custody of the new generals [stone-throwing children], one of whom will raise the flag over Jerusalem's mosques, walls, churches, and minarets.

Milhim Karam: It is said that you have a strong relationship with Norodom Sihanouk. When did that relationship start, and what is your role in resolving the Cambodian crisis? And is it true that your representative attend the settlement talks?

President 'Arafat: We are members of the nonaligned committee concerned with good offices in Cambodia. The first meeting between Sihanouk and the present prime minister was held via Palestinian mediation. Our representative in question attends most meetings.

Milhim Karam: What is your relationship with Hizballah? Is it true that you were asked to mediate to secure the release of the U.S. hostages?

President 'Arafat: No one asked me to mediate to secure the U.S. hostages' release. But I contributed to the release of other hostages. As for my relationship with Hizballah, it is the relationship which I had with many of the party's leaders when I was in Lebanon. I harbor every respect for Shaykh Husayn Fadlallah.

Milhim Karam: Did President George Bush personally ask you to help him to resolve the mystery of Pan Am 103, which exploded over Lockerbie, Scotland?

President 'Arafat: No, he did not.

Milhim Karam: Jacques Chirac thanked you for your contribution to the release of a French hostage in 1987. What was your role in the release of that hostage?

President 'Arafat: We embark on any any humanitarian initiative we can make to serve tormented humanity. We received Jacques Chirac's thanks with gratitude and happiness.

Milhim Karam: You have good ties with General 'Awn and high-ranking relations with the tripartite committee. How do you expect the al-Ta'if results and General 'Awn's position to be reconciled?

President 'Arafat: The solution must be brotherly and based on one organized view from all my brothers in Lebanon. Without that, nothing can be resolved by force, because there are many foreign interferences in Lebanon, which hampers any position proceeding from understanding and consensus. I see that it is important that Rene Mu'awwad, president of the republic of Lebanon, act in that direction, no matter how much effort it will cost him. Let him give predominance to love and brotherhood.

Milhim Karam: The Lebanese are worried about their future. How do you visualize the destiny?

President 'Arafat: Regrettably, I say that the scheme designed to partition and Cyprusize Lebanon still stands and is in effect. It is an Israeli conspiracy in the first place, and it has the blessing of some U.S. circles. The Arab nation as a whole must continue the efforts exerted in al-Ta'if to confront that scheme.

Milhim Karam: The Jordanian elections brought the Muslim Brotherhood into the parliament, and most of the voters were Palestinians. How do you explain that, and what will the effect be on the intifadah?

President 'Arafat: No. Only 25-30 percent of the Palestinians voted. That is because many considered that they are not directly concerned with those elections. I do not believe that will affect the intifadah.

It is a Jordanian internal affair, and I wish them success in what they chose and decided.

Milhim: Since the intifadah started Israel has tried to indicate that you have no links with its command, but you provided evidence to the contrary. So how do you lead the intifadah?

President 'Arafat: First, it is not I who provided the evidence. It is our people who decided and informed the world of that through a position which has not shaken for a single moment. Many tried to kindle sedition between Muslims and Christians, and some leaderships tried to adopt confused stances, but all this [sentence incomplete]. Milhim Karam: If violent Palestinian acts occur without your knowledge, does that embarrass you, and how do you avoid it?

President 'Arafat: I always try with the Palestinian leadership to control matters in their natural course. We have exerted and continue to exert efforts, and we will work constantly, to control everyone through Palestine National Council resolutions. No can do something 100 percent.

Milhim Karam: One hundred and seventeen states have recognized the Palestinian state. What has changed after these states' recognition of the PLO and the state?

President 'Arafat: Anyone who achieves for himself a presence on the political map achieves the same presence on the geographical map.

Milhim Karam: It is said that despite your position supportive of Iraq, you maintain good relations with many Iranian leaders. How do you explain that?

President 'Arafat: Despite my known position during the Iraq-Iran war, I will not at any moment sever my relationship with the seminary in Qom. ['Arafat ends]

'Arafat also said: We will continue the intifadah, wave after wave, until the end of the Israeli occupation and the departure of the last Israeli soldier from this Palestinian land, and I will then raise this flag over Jerusalem, capital of the Palestinian state.

Milhim Karam: Why did the endeavors called for by Sheverdnadze fail?

President 'Arafat: The five-member committee held meetings, and so did the seven-member committee, but these committees made no progress.

Milhim Karam: The United States and Israel say that the intifadah has become a daily matter to which they have been accustomed and so its energy has been limited. Whereas you say that the intifadah comprises several phases and will not stop. May we know what the next stage will be?

President 'Arafat: First, it is enough to tell you about the Israeli military and political leaders' admission of their inability to suffocate, end, or circumvent the intifadah. Our losses over 22 months total $2.1 billion, and Israel's losses are $5.7 billion. Not only that, they also know that this intifadah—and this is an irreversible decision—will continue, wave after wave, until the end. Furthermore, we are now in the fourth phase, and we still have the fifth, sixth, and seventh. The first is the comprehensive strike. The sixth is national civil disobedience. The seventh we do not talk about.

Milhim Karam: Do you expect a new war in the region?

President 'Arafat: Yes, if the Israeli arrogance continues. The Middle East region is the only region that does not lack weapons. Everywhere there are limits on weapons, except for the Middle East: All kinds of weapons are concentrated in our region—nuclear, chemical, and classical weapons.

Milhim Karam: Do you expect the international conference to be convened in the near future?

President 'Arafat: Without a serious U.S. position toward Israel's intransigence, I cannot see such a conference being convened. Therefore I see that the Security Council's five member states have a duty to ensure that matters do not get out of hand. When the cyclone comes, it will not harm one party, but all.

Milhim Karam: Is there any urgent reason for convening an Arab summit?

President 'Arafat: Undoubtedly, and an Arab summit will be held in February. It was agreed at the Casablanca summit that a routine Arab summit will convene in Riyadh—that is, at King Fahd's invitation.

'Arafat Cited on Mu'awwad Death, Intifadah

JN2411162489 Manama WAKH in English 1530 GMT 24 Nov 89

[Text] Kuwait, Nov 24 (GNA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has condemned in a statement published here Friday the assassination of Lebanese President Rene Mu'awwad, which took place last Friday.

'Arafat, who concluded a visit to Kuwait yesterday, told the Kuwaiti "AL-QABAS" daily newspaper the assassination of President Mu'awwad was a conspiracy to partition Lebanon.

Speaking about the Palestinian crisis, 'Arafat charged the U.S. Administration is fully biased toward Israel and is trying to give Israeli Premier Yitzhaq Shamir the chance to stop the uprising, but he stressed, "our people is determined to continue its heroic acts until victory is realized."

He emphasized the uprising will continue wave after wave until the Palestinian flag is hoisted on Jerusalem, adding that several parts of the Palestinian land are being "liberated" and no army soldiers can enter.

Air Raids on PFLP-GC Bases Reported

JN2311154589 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1510 GMT 23 Nov 89

[Text] Brother citizens, the Zionist enemy radio broadcast this report at 1630 today: Israeli Air Force planes raided terrorist targets northeast of Lake al-Qir'awn in southern Lebanon. Our correspondent says all the planes returned to base safely, and the targets raided belong to

the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] and were used as a departure base for sabotage operations in Israel.

Al-Quds Radio, the Palestinian Arab radio on the road to the liberation of land and man, transmitted the following report at 1600: Formations of Zionist warplanes at noon today, Thursday, 23 November 1989, raided two positions belonging to the PFLP-GC: The first position is located in the eastern al-Biqa' Valley and consists of administrative and logistical positions, and the second is located near the (Ghazzat Lusia) village in western al-Biqa'.

Sources close to the PFLP-GC said it will issue a detailed communique later on; meanwhile the al-Quds Radio correspondent asserts the Zionist warplanes are still flying over Al-Na'imah, Al-Dammur, and Sidon. God supports us. Victory is imminent. Let us proceed forward to liberate land and man.

PFLP-GC Communique on Losses

JN2311175389 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1716 GMT 23 Nov 89

[Text] A military spokesman for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] has stated the following:

First: A formation of enemy planes raided a PFLP-GC administrative position in the east al-Biqa' valley at 1400 with heavy bombs and missiles. A building in the position sustained a direct hit. Our losses at this position: One was martyred and another wounded. The position sustained some material damage.

Second: At 1400, a formation of enemy planes bombarded a PFLP-GC military position in the west al-Biqa' valley near the village of Ghazzah north of the al-Qir'awn lake. The position was hit with 14 heavy missiles and bombs, some of which were time bombs. Our losses: Two wounded and some material losses.

The PFLP-GC military spokesman adds: These new raids by the Zionist enemy against our positions only will enhance our insistence on our constants and on our political positions, rejecting all concessions, including the Shamir plan and the Baker points, and will harden our intention to continue armed struggle—the path to the liberation of Palestine—thus assisting our heroic Palestinian people's glorious intifadah. These new raids, which coincide with Lebanon's circumstances following the martyrdom of its president, Rene Mu'awwad, are practical evidence that the scheme of the known and concealed Zionists is the same and concerted.

This is a pledge to continue the struggle on the path toward the liberation of land and man.

[Signed] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine- General Command

Fatah Revolutionary Council Meets on Intifadah

JN2211182389 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 22 Nov 89

[Text] The Palestine National Liberation Movement—Fatah—Revolutionary Council held its first session in its new formation which followed the Fatah's fifth general congress from 17 to 19 November.

After observing a minute of silence in honor of the martyrs' souls, the Revolutionary Council began its work by electing the Council's secretariat. Hamdan [Yahya 'Ashur] was elected secretary, and 'Adnan Samarah and Sakhr Busaysu were elected deputy secretaries.

The session agenda consists of the Executive Committee's report on our people's blessed intifadah, ways to escalate it and support our people's national steadfastness in the face of the occupation, and the political situation on the Palestinian, Arab, and international levels in light of the resolutions of the movement's fifth general congress.

The Council listened to the Executive Committee report read by Brother Commander in Chief Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] in which he reviewed Palestinian, Arab, and international political developments. Abu-'Ammar reiterated the constants of the Palestinian stand endorsed by the movement's fifth general congress and confirmed by the Central Council in its session held in Baghdad between 15 and 17 October 1989—the constants that affirm the adherence to the PLO as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and the necessity of convening an international conference to achieve a just and comprehensive peace on the basis of achieving national Palestinian rights, particularly the right to self-determination and the establishment of the independent Palestinian state.

Abu-'Ammar affirmed the continuation of our people's firm confrontation of the Zionist enemy's attempts aimed at striking at their blessed intifadah. Abu-'Ammar greeted our masses in the occupied territory for their heroic steadfastness in the face of the occupation forces and their repressive methods. He also greeted the heroic stand of our kinfolk in Bayt Sahur as an example of a new stage in the development of the intifadah on the path of the comprehensive national mutiny to defeat the occupation and achieve national independence. He also greeted the steadfastness of Gaza in the face of siege and aggression; Nabulus, the mountain of fire, and its great revolutionary haughtiness; Hebron; Jerusalem; and Bethlehem in their confrontation of the attempts to encroach on our Islamic and Christian holy places.

Abu-al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], secretary of the Central Committee, then spoke about the political developments that followed the movement's fifth congress. The Central Committee's report includes the organizational resolutions adopted by the Central Committee with regard to the future plans of the movement's organs and institutions.

The discussions and deliberations of the brothers, the members of the Revolutionary Council, also dealt with a number of important issues on the political and organizational levels. They focused on the need for developing the official and popular Arab moves to support the intifadah of our people and to hold a meeting for the Arab foreign ministers.

The Fatah movement's Revolutionary Council highly praised the spirit of national unity embodied inside our occupied territory—the spirit that contributed to the escalation of the intifadah and protected it from all the enemy's attempts to undermine our people's unity, to coerce their will, and to persecute them.

On the internal level, the Fatah movement's Revolutionary Council agreed on the Central Committee's nomination of Brother Abu-al-'Abd al-'Akluk as the chairman of the committee for controlling the movement and protecting the membership; and Brother Abu-Murid al-Qudwah as chairman of the financial control committee.

The Council also agreed on a number of observer members who were nominated by the Central Committee.

Concluding its meetings, the movement's Revolutionary Council greeted our people's heroic steadfastness in the face of the occupation and highly praised their great sacrifices that give a strong signal to the Zionist enemy and all forces that support it—that our people inside and outside our occupied territory unanimously are resolved to defeat the occupation, achieve freedom and national independence, and establish the Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

Fatah's Abu Iyad Rebuts Lockerbie Charge

PM24111161789 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 28 Nov 89 p 17

[Unattributed interview with Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, alias Abu-Iyad, in Tunis; date unspecified]

[Text] [Interviewer] There are accusations against the Popular Front [for the Liberation of Palestine]-General Command [PFLP-GC] with regard to the U.S. plane which exploded over Scotland. What is your opinion?

[Khalaf] I have heard about these accusations, but nothing official has been issued by the United States, and no official evidence has emerged to show it was Ahmad Jibril who carried out that operation. All we have heard is merely accusations within the framework of analysis. Even with regard to the group arrested in West Germany, what has been said about its links with the Lockerbie incident amounts to mere press speculation. Nothing official has been issued by the German Government holding the PFLP-GC responsible. What concerns me in that regard is that the West and its media insist on linking the Palestinians' name to anything that will damage their reputation. And I believe the Zionist organs are behind that.

[Interviewer] But the accusations are based on statements attributed to Jibril—statements he is said to have made following the shooting down of the Iranian civilian plane in Gulf waters, when he pledged to take revenge.

[Khalaf] This question should be addressed to Jibril himself, and he must answer as to why he pledged revenge on behalf of the Iranians, whose resources and capabilities exceed his and who have Lebanese and non-Lebanese forces capable of such things. Anyhow, the conspiracy is aimed at linking the Palestinians to any incident of a terrorist nature, even if if those accused are against the Palestinian people and their will, and working for forces isolated from those people and their concerns.

[Interview] And have the Americans asked you to help them determine whether Jibril was involved?

[Khalaf] The Americans have many friends who have great influence over Ahmad Jibril and can provide them with everything known about him. As for us, relations between us and the Americans have not reached the point of security cooperation and information exchange on issues at that level.

[Interviewer] Some say the downing of that plane on the eve of the start of the U.S.-Palestinian talks was aimed at obstructing that dialogue, and that there are groups—the PFLP-GC among them—who are interested in aborting that dialogue.

[Khalaf] There are groups that are against the United States, but their resources are insignificant compared with those of other quarters which also do not want the dialogue. The quarter most interested in aborting the dialogue with the United States is Israel. It is known Israel is capable in that field, and there are numerous precedents. Israeli intelligence has infiltrators inside groups unjustly considered Palestinian. So there is nothing strange about Israel's exploiting these infiltrators in an operation like Lockerbie, with a view to distorting the Palestinian people's reputation and damaging the intifadah. We consider the downing of a civil aircraft and the killing of innocent people an unforgivable crime, which cannot be justified by saying that U.S. policy in the Middle East is totally biased against the Arabs and their just causes. We also emphasize the response to such a bias cannot be made through terrorist acts or by killing innocent people.

[Interviewer] And do you believe the United States will take some action against the Jibril group in reply to that operation?

[Khalaf] I cannot predict the future and I have no information in that regard. Besides, the United States

has not yet officially accused Ahmad Jibril, and no evidence has emerged holding his organization responsible for that act.

Al-Najjab on Baker Plan, Jordan's Elections

JN2311104489 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 23 Nov 89 pp 20, 15

[By Tawfiq al-'Abid]

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Member Sulayman al-Najjab has said all efforts exerted by the PLO and the parties supporting the Palestinian people's right to self-determination have failed to shift the U.S. position, which is hostile to our legitimate rights, and that Baker's points confirm the U.S. Administration's adherence to that position.

In exclusive statements to AL-DUSTUR, he said the PLO firmly maintains all its positions, which are based on the foundations and principles determined in Baghdad that formed the content of the reply delivered 3 days ago to the Egyptian Government. He also said Baker's points are only a mechanism to implement Shamir's plan.

Al-Najjab added: The U.S. points lack any mention of the Palestinian demands: the recognition of the right to self-determination, the international conference, or the acknowledgement of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Al-Najjab asserted the PLO is, as always, determined to oppose any attempt to bypass it or draw it into a new Camp David. Referring to the explanations requested from the U.S. Administration by the PLO, he said: We did not request explanations, because Baker's points are clear. The PLO Executive Committee, however, asked for explanations of the U.S. Administration's position on the principles determined by the PLO Central Council in its recent session. The United States still is far from understanding these principles, the most prominent of which is the right to self-determination.

Al-Najjab went on to say: The PLO Executive Committee is serious about activating the peace process according to the principles which the international community—with the exception of "Israel" and the United States—approve. It also is serious about continuing the dialogue with the United States without mediators or illusions.

He pointed out that as long as the U.S. position is based on denying the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, the U.S. Administration will continue to try to bypass the PLO.

Al-Najjab said: The success of the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue is not dependent on the skill of the Palestinian negotiator, but on the amount of pressure exerted on the United States to work seriously for a just solution based on UN Security Council Resolutions Nos 242 and 338; guaranteeing the Palestinian people's right to self-determination; and security and peace for all states in the region, including the independent Palestinian state, within the framework of the international conference.

Answering a question, al-Najjab said: We did not ask for guarantees from the United States, but for recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

Regarding the formation of the Palestinian delegation to the "Cairo dialogue," al-Najjab said: the PLO has rejected trusteeship from anyone. It is an accepted fact the PLO alone has the right to form its delegation. Only the PLO will form the PLO's delegation and the PLO does not have the right to abandon itself.

He said the U.S. attempt to open a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue is being blocked because of U.S.-Israeli intransigence. He added: However, the horizons for continuing political activity toward the international conference still are open, but they need a serious Arab effort to implement the Casablanca summit resolutions and raise the level of coordination between the Arab states on the one hand and the Soviet Union and Western Europe on the other.

He added: In its recent resolutions, the PLO Central Council determined the principal guidelines for the Palestinian leadership's action on the Palestinian, Arab, and international levels. The success of this action depends to a large extent on the level of the Arab states' contribution to the intifadah and the PLO's political program and its efforts to confront alternative projects and plans. Hence, the Palestinian request to hold an extraordinary meeting of Arab foreign ministers to back the Palestinian peace plan and implement the Casablanca resolutions.

He said Israel and the United States are responsible for this deadlock—not the PLO. Some people are trying to accuse the PLO of causing the deadlock in order to extort new concessions from the PLO that no Palestinian party is willing, or has the right, to make.

Answering a question on the parliamentary elections in Jordan, al-Najjiab said: We voice our appreciation for the democracy that was practiced. We highly praise this democratic experience and the election slogans that expressed support for the valiant intifadah and the goals of the Palestinian struggle for repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of the independent Palestinian state under the leadership of the PLO.

He added: Certainly, this enlightened experience will have a positive impact on our people's intifadah, which has a popular and democratic character.

Al-Najjab concluded his statements by saying: Now, as it approaches the end of its 2d year, the intifadah reveals our people's enormous and creative abilities to stand fast. It also shows it enjoys broad international sympathy and support.

Al-Najjab said it was necessary now to provide political and material aid to the intifadah and to oppose the political attempts, maneuvers, and plots against it and the goals of the Palestinian national struggle.

Al-Najjab arrived in Amman the day before yesterday on a working visit to Jordan.

Shamir's Washington, Paris Visits Contrasted

JN2311194089 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1740 GMT 23 Nov 89

[News analysis by radio correspondent: "Shamir Returns Empty-Handed"]

[Text] Dear brothers, the outcome of the Washington visit by Yitzhaq Shamir, the Israeli occupation prime minister, was shrouded with ambiguity, especially regarding the failure of the United States to make clear remarks on the issue. However, the results of his Paris visit were made clear through the statements of the enemy prime minister himself. Shamir admitted France's interests prompt it to support Palestinians and Arabs. Shamir repeated his well-known no's in Washington and Paris. He said no to a Palestinian state, and no to negotiations with the PLO. The U.S. Administration might have chosen to continue to mortgage its position to Israel's own vis-a-vis the Middle East peace process. As for France, it has opted for a balanced policy toward the Middle East conflict and the Palestine question, the crux of that conflict.

Hence, the French stand on a regional political settlement is unmistakably different from the United States'. Paris, which clearly is convinced of the need to settle the Palestine question, said the resolution of this question must be founded on the bases and principles enshrined in the relevant UN resolutions. Paris added that the PLO must be allowed to participate effectively in efforts to attain such a solution. This stand is to be contrasted with the procrastination of Washington, whose position is deliberately shrouded with ambiguity. Washington views the issue as an Arab-Israeli conflict that has a Palestinian aspect. It has chosen to tackle this aspect by launching and maintaining the dialogue initiated late last year with the PLO. Washington so far has failed to upgrade this dialogue to the status of official negotiations with the PLO. In addition, it even has failed to make this dialogue assume a more significant geographic dimension, allowing it to move from Tunisia to U.S. territory.

This difference between France and the United States figures prominently at the end of Shamir's visits to the United States and France. Whereas the administration of U.S. President George Bush continued to support the Israeli Government despite claims that this administration has differences with Israel on some of the points contained in the plan of its secretary of state, James Baker, French President Mitterrand unequivocally declared any solution that fails to address the root cause of the conflict in the region—that is, the Palestine question—is doomed to failure. This is an affirmation meant to convey a political message not only to Israel, but also to Washington. The proposed U.S. plan, which partly is opposed by the Israelis, does not envisage the attainment of a comprehensive settlement of the Palestine question. No, this plan seeks to find a limited Arab-Israeli settlement. Therefore, Washington remains incapable of reaching a solution, not only because of Israel's objections to its plan, but mainly because its plan does not address the root cause of the Middle East conflict.

The French stand has been well known since President Mitterrand met a few months ago in Paris with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat. However, it must be said the French political role in this regard still needs to be accentuated and emphasized in order to help crystallize a tenacious [words indistinct] that is completely different from the current U.S. stand, in order to facilitate the convening of an international conference with the participation of all concerned parties, including the PLO, with a view to attaining a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East region.

Algeria

Ghazali Interview on Mu'awwad Assassination

LD2211230189 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 Nov 89

[Interview with Foreign Minister Seyed Ahmed Ghazali by unidentified correspondent on 22 November; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Unidentified correspondent] This assassination undoubtedly arouses reactions—all of which I believe condemn this criminal act. Algeria also has its say in this tragedy. Our Foreign Minister Mr Seyed Ahmed Ghazali has insisted on expressing Algeria's stance regarding this tragedy. Good evening Mr Ghazali. Mr Ghazali, Algeria is a member country in the tripartite committee, so what is its stance and direct reaction following the assassination of the leader, the defunct President Rene Mu'awwad?

[Begin recording] [Ghazali] The reaction of, first of all, Algeria, its president, government, and people, is to receive the assassination of President Rene Mu'awwad with utmost sorrow and distress. Rene Mu'awwad was famous for his commitment to the unity of Lebanon and his commitment to this cause. It is possible to say that he paid with his life the price of his commitment and love to the unity of Lebanon.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency the Minister Mr Ghazali, we know that there are several parties opposed to the al-Ta'if agreement. Do you suspect a given source to be behind the implementation of this operation?

[Ghazali] I do not talk about suspicion; it is enough to mention what happened from the beginning because what took place today was regrettably expected. It was a kind of event to be expected. Where were the threats coming from, since and before the al-Ta'if [meetings]? Before al-Ta'if it was known that the threats were coming from East Beirut to all the Christian deputies. In al-Ta'if, the threats were coming daily, not to say every hour.

All the deputies, including and particularly the Christians, were aware and this did not prevent them from assuming their responsibilities. Thus it did not prevent them from agreeing on national concord. In Beirut and in Lebanon, after the agreement of national concord, threats came from the same party, the party which rushed to impede the implementation of the concord agreement on Lebanon's soil. This party did not content itself with threats, but there is the bombing of houses of several Christian deputies. There is also the aggression on Patriarch Sfayr. It is enough to mention that the hands which hit Rene Mu'awwad hit Lebanon and the Lebanese people at the same time.

[Correspondent] And the al-Ta'if agreement at the same time?

[Ghazali] The al-Ta'if agreement is still in force since the al-Ta'if agreement was approved in Lebanon by the Lebanese Parliament. Thus there is nothing new regarding the al-Ta'if agreement itself. However, the new issue is how will the course of implementation of the agreement be on the field.

[Correspondent] The last question, if you do not mind Mr Ghazali: In front of the succession of all these developments and current events on the Lebanese arena, how do you see the fate of Lebanon and the future of the tripartite committee?

[Ghazali] The role of the tripartite committee is to stay by the side of the Lebanese to return peace to Lebanon and to revive the Lebanese State. We feared what happened today. It is this same thing that led us to make moves in order to warn the international community up front of the dangers of some reckless stances. The topic of the latest mission which I carried out on behalf of President Chadli Bendjedid in Paris was to warn the French Government up front of some behaviors and standpoints which rushed to impede the implementation of concord.

We are confident that the Lebanese people have all the will and courage so that their will will not be rocked by this tragedy and so they can carry out their work through legitimate representatives, the parliament, to elect a new president. Thus the tripartite committee remains by the side of Lebanon and is confident that there is a great hope that the process of dynamism of peace which was launched thanks to the agreement of concord will lead to is goal which is to revive the Lebanese State, a powerful and sovereign state within the borders of Lebanon.

[Correspondent] Thus, can we not say that there is a return to point zero as far as the peace efforts are concerned?

[Ghazali] This is perhaps what people or the party, which is against national concord, try to implement. However, the Lebanese, among whom are the deputies, have to assume their responsibilities as they did in al-Ta'if and after al-Ta'if by approving the agreement of national concord, the election of a president and the appointment of a new government. [end recording]

[Correspondent] I thank you Your Excellency the Minister, and hope to meet you at another opportunity and at other events, God willing.

Government Statement Issued

LD2311092489 Algiers APS in Arabic 0800 GMT 23 Nov 89

[Text] Algiers 23 Nov (APS)—"The Algerian Government and people received with extreme sorrow and pain the news of the assassination which claimed the lives of President Rene Mu'awwad, president of Lebanon, and a number of innocent persons who were the victims of their dedication to the service of the cause of their people."

This came in a statement by the official spokesman of the Foreign Ministry published yesterday evening.

The statement added: "Algeria strongly condemns this criminal action which killed a man of courage and dialogue who dedicated his life to peace, national unity, and reconciliation in Lebanon. Algeria regrets this blind violence which appears anew in this Arab land, the land of peace and tolerance.

"Algeria has previously warned the international community against the grave dangers of the individual stances and adventures of those who hastened to obstruct the march of national reconciliation.

"Algeria will continue its appeal to the international community and to all those who support peace and show solidarity with the Lebanese people to exert every possible effort to put an end to the practices contradicting the implementation of the national accord agreement.

"Algeria is convinced that the Lebanese people will overcome this new tragic crisis, and through their courage, will be able to continue the march toward peace with the same determination shown recently by their representatives, to rescue themselves and serve the Arab nation.

"Algeria will remain standing by the fraternal Lebanese people until reason takes over, which will serve fraternal dialogue, and until the unprecedented hope for peace which stemmed from the national accord document is materialized."

Socialist Forces Front Registered as Party

LD2011142389 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Nov 89

[Text] It was learned at the Ministry of Interior today that the Socialist Forces Front has been accepted and that the notification of acceptance has been sent to the official gazette for publication.

It is noteworthy that the Socialist Forces Front, whose secretary general is Dr Nayet Joudi, deposited its file on 24 September.

National Assembly Rejects Information Law

LD2011223289 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 20 Nov 89

[Excerpt] In the parliament by a majority of two-thirds by show of hands, members of the National People's Assembly agreed today to reject the information law. On the other hand they ratified the basic law of the judiciary. Akila Ait Saeli attended the session:

[Saeli] With the attendance of a large number of journalists, who attend in large numbers every time the Assembly studies an issue which concerns the press, the members of the National People's Chamber decided at this evening's session not to ratify the information law, or more explicitly, they decided to reject this law, which was ratified by the deputies last July during an extraordinary session.

The deputies rejected this law after it was presented for a second reading. The results of voting were 181 against and 29 for, with 57 deputies abstaining and 22 deputies absent.

It is noteworthy that the second reading of this law was at the request of the president in his message dated 21 August, and according to Article 118 of the Constitution. The article specifies that a law returned for a second reading needs a two thirds majority: i.e. 194 votes. The return message recommended restudying two basic points, the first of which concerns the concept of public service and the concept of the public sector, and the second concerns the powers of the National Information Council.

The minister of education, who was representing the government, stressed that this reading—the second one—was dictated by the need to make the texts of law conform to the Constitution. He pointed out that this does not at all indicate any lack of trust in the Assembly. At the end he expressed the government's confidence that the contribution of the National People's Assembly will remain effective. Bearing in mind, he said, that the rejection of the law which was presented is a response to the requirements of the current stage.

A new law was ratified this evening by the deputies. It is the basic law of the judiciary. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Source Denounces 'Terrorist' Act in Lebanon

NC2211173589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1715 GMT 22 Nov 89

[Text] Cairo, 22 Nov (MENA)—A responsible source in the Foreign Ministry stated that Egypt has received with deep regret and sorrow the news of the assassination of President Rene Mu'awwad, president of the fraternal Republic of Lebanon, at a time when hopes are pinned on restoring security and stability to Lebanon.

Egypt, while strongly denouncing this terrorist criminal act, calls on the Lebanese people to adhere to their unity, to discard their differences at this critical time, and to resume their march to rebuild their constitutional institutions.

Egypt shares with the fraternal Lebanese people their painful loss and extends to them and to the family of Lebanon's loss its sincerest condolences and solace.

President's Office Statement

NC2211202589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1930 GMT 22 Nov 89

[Text] Cairo, 22 Nov (MENA)—The office of the Egyptian president denounced the criminal action that claimed the life of Lebanese President Rene Mu'awwad.

In a statement it issued, the President's Office said: At a time when the entire Arab nation, together with the fraternal Lebanese people, were looking forward to opening a new page on the land of Lebanon that would end the anarchy and destruction that the Lebanese people have suffered from throughout the past years, and that will augur the commencement of the necessary steps to rebuild the state's entity, bolster the foundations of legitimacy, and eliminate the danger of partition during the present difficult time, the hand of crime and destruction assassinated the head of state, President Rene Mu'awwad, who had been almost unanimously elected, and other innocent people. This portends the gravest consequences, threatens to abort the rebuilding process, and once again opens the way for the resumption of acts of violence, destruction, and bloodshed.

The Arab Republic of Egypt, which has always stood at the side of the fraternal Lebanese people in their heroic struggle to put an end to this terrible tragedy, denounces this criminal, sinful act that constituted the apex of destruction and corruption and sought to frustrate the hope for a better future for all the sons of Lebanon.

Egypt appeals to all the Lebanese parties to rise above their disputes during these difficult times, to unite their ranks to relentlessly contain this sedition, and to direct their efforts toward continuing the reform and rebuilding process in all the state's institutions to arrive at the best situation to which all of us aspire.

May God bestow His mercy on the honorable deceased and his companions who had undertaken to serve their country during these delicate circumstances and had prepared the fraternal Lebanese people to overcome their sorrows and mobilize their constructive capabilities to continue their struggle for unity, reconstruction, and stability.

Sudan's Al-Bashir Meets Mubarak in Cairo

NC2311091589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0840 GMT 23 Nov 89

[Text] Cairo, 23 Nov (MENA)—Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese National Salvation Revolution Command Council, arrived in Cairo this morning. President Muhammad Husni Mubarak led the delegation which received Al-Bashir upon his arrival at Cairo airport at 0945 today.

President Mubarak accompanied Lt Gen al-Bashir to the al-Qubbah palace, where they held talks.

Ends Visit; Mubarak Comments

NC2311125989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1130 GMT 23 Nov 89

[Text] Cairo, 23 Nov (MENA)—Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese National Salvation Revolution Command Council, left Cairo this afternoon following a brief 3-hour working visit.

He was seen off at the airport by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif.

Prior to the departure of Lt Gen 'Umar al-Bashir, President Husni Mubarak and Lt Gen al-Bashir spoke to reporters.

Asked about his talks with President Mubarak, Al-Bashir said his visit to Cairo is an ordinary one within the framework of the continuing coordination and consultations between the two fraternal countries.

In response to a question about the situation in Darfur, Al-Bashir said: The situation there is currently stable, thank God, as it is in Kurdufan. However, there is some activity by insurgents in southern Kurdufan, he added.

President Mubarak was then asked if it could be said that Egypt and Iraq have succeeded in overcoming the crisis that followed the recent incidents to which some Egyptians were subjected in Baghdad and about which some media organs have created something of a furor. He said: I followed this problem right from the start. Naturally, there are many parties that do not want our relations with Iraq to continue and to be strong. President Mubarak added: Before the announcement of the establishment of the Arab Cooperation Council, and even before that, we expected that several foreign powers would not welcome such an agreement. The president pointed out that as far as this issue is concerned, there is actually a problem, but this problem is being resolved. He noted that Iraq has until recently been at war and is following a policy of austerity; perhaps it does not have money to transfer abroad, with the result that this has happened, he stated.

President Mubarak added: We all listened to the speech of brother President Saddam Husayn in this respect. However, what I hold against our media is the fact that they have been widening the gap unnecessarily. He added: It is true that there was a problem and that money transfers were delayed, but we know the circumstances. Matters are being solved with the brothers in Iraq, who are responsive and who want to find a solution because they consider the Egyptians to be their own sons. President Saddam gave a speech in this regard and Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraqi deputy prime minister, talked about the matter when he was here, and they are very concerned. President Mubarak added: However, we are exaggerating the issue. A partisan newspaper yesterday talked about a massacre in Iraq. The fact of the matter is

that certain mistakes were made by some Iraqis and by some Egyptians. We should not exaggerate the issue "unnecessarily," but instead should work for the good and exercise good offices toward a solution, rather than widen the gap.

Asked about the conditions of Egyptian workers in Iraq, President Mubarak said he had not made any statement on this matter before, because after all, Egypt and Iraq are sisterly states. He added: We must not pick up the news agencies' stories and publish them in our newspapers as if they are facts. The president stressed that he always wants the Egyptian press to be accurate in such matters, because they concern inter-Arab relations.

Citing another example, President Mubarak quoted one of the papers as saying that Egypt is facilitating the transfer of Jews from the Soviet Union to Israel. The president asked: Whose interests does it serve to publish such a report? Do the Soviet Union and Israel need Egypt's mediation? The president pointed out that Soviet-Israeli relations are "good." He added: These are sad examples. He noted that there are some who talk about other things, such as the situation in Sudan, in order to harm bilateral relations.

President Mubarak pointed out in his remarks that he is working to achieve Arab solidarity. The newspapers that talk about Arab solidarity repeat the words of the powers that do not want this solidarity to be achieved, he added. The president asked everyone to be cautious in this regard. Everyone must know that we are an Arab country, that we have Arab and African brothers, and I hope our press will be alert and accurate in what it publishes, he said.

Asked if there had been any direct contact between him and Iraqi President Saddam Husayn on this issue, Mubarak said: Contacts between President Husayn and me are constant. He stressed that President Saddam Husayn is among those who are most sympathetic to the Egyptians.

In response to another question on the return of many Egyptians from Iraq in the past few days, President Mubarak said: Let us be realistic. Many Egyptians went there without any contracts, and you know what happens under such circumstances.

At the end of the news conference, Lt Gen al-Bashir was asked about his hopes from the Nairobi talks between the Sudanese Government and John Garang's movement. He said: We have high hopes that the Nairobi talks will at least succeed in laying down the basis for attaining a solution to the problem in southern Sudan.

Information Minister on Talks

NC2311190189 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 23 Nov 89

[Text] Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has stated that the short working visit which Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese National Salvation Revolution Command Council, paid to Egypt today forms part of the constant consultations between Egypt and Sudan and confirms the spirit of brotherhood and cooperation between the two countries.

Al-Sharif added that President Mubarak briefed Lt Gen al-Bashir on the outcome of consultations with the friendly African states that have common borders with Sudan. These consultations were held with a view to reaching an understanding and settlement in southern Sudan, as part of the initiative launched by fraternal Sudan through the national dialogue conference. Al-Sharif went on to say that the discussion between the two leaders had touched on ways to promote bilateral relations and serve the interests of the two peoples in a practical way, to generate revenues to boost both economies and bear fruit for the citizens of both states.

Al-Sharif added that President Mubarak and Lt Gen al-Bashir also discussed developments in the region, the ongoing contacts regarding the Palestinian issue among the parties concerned and on the international level, and the situation in Lebanon in light of the deterioration that took place in the preceding few hours.

Mubarak Speaks With King Fahd, PDRY President

NC2311214489 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 23 Nov 89

[Text] President Husni Mubarak telephoned His Majesty King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, this evening. The two leaders discussed the latest developments in the Arab world and exchanged views on the current developments in the region.

In addition, President Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY], telephoned President Mubarak. The two presidents exchanged views on some of the issues of common interest to the two countries and on developments in the Arab world.

Saudi Justice Minister Ends Official Visit

NC2211123689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1135 GMT 22 Nov 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 22 Nov (MENA)—Saudi Justice Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Ibrahim Ibn-Jubayri left Cairo at noon today after an official 4-day visit to Egypt.

Before leaving, the Saudi minister stated that it has been agreed to continue to bolster cooperation between the two countries in the legal field. He added that a number of agreements will be studied so that Saudi Arabia can benefit from Egyptian expertise in the sphere of justice and law. [passage omitted]

Cabinet Meets, Reviews Relations With Iraq

NC2111201989 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 21 Nov 89

[Excerpt] The cabinet met under Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi today to review the outcome of the recent meeting of the joint Egyptian-Iraqi higher committee in Cairo.

Minister of Information Dr Safwat al-Sharif said that the cabinet stressed the depth of relations between Egypt and Iraq on all official, government, and popular levels. The cabinet also stressed its desire to strengthen these relations.

Al-Sharif said that Dr Sidqi explained that the Iraqi Government has taken several immediate and positive measures to solve the problems of Egyptian workers in Iraq. He added that Dr Sidqi stressed the importance of regulating the use of the Egyptian work force and the rules for its departure for work abroad. This work force's disorganized departure for abroad causes several material, social, and security problems.

The Minister of Information said that the cabinet decided to form a permanent committee to draw up the necessary rules for organizing the departure of the work force for foreign markets and for following up any resulting problems. The committee consists of senior officials from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Manpower, Emigration, Social Insurance, and Interior. [passage omitted]

Source Says Workers in Iraq Face 'No Problems'

NC2111210289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2045 GMT 21 Nov 89

[Text] Cairo, 21 Nov (MENA)—A responsible source in the Ministry of Manpower said tonight that contacts with the Iraqis are continuing daily at all levels to overcome any difficulties facing Egyptians working in Iraq.

The source added that the Egyptian labor attache and consul general in Iraq are staying permanently at Baghdad Airport to tackle and prevent any problems in transporting Egyptian workers from Baghdad. He stressed that currently there are no problems.

Phosphate Project Agreement Signed With USSR

JN2311121589 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 21 Nov 89 p 11

[By 'Izzat 'Abd-al-Mun'im]

[Excerpt] An agreement was signed in Moscow yesterday to implement the Abu-Tartur phosphate project in the al-Wadi al-Jadid area with a 2.2 million ton production capacity at the cost of 425 million pounds. The Soviet Union will supply the equipment and hardware to implement the project and Egypt will pay the cost in terms of Egyptian products within the trade agreement between the two countries. [passage omitted]

Morocco

King Hassan Delivers National Address 22 Nov

LD2211155989 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 1313 GMT 22 Nov 89

[Address to the nation by King Hassan II—live]

[Text] Thanks to God, and prayers and peace be upon our master the messenger of God and upon his family and companions. My dear people, we are again following our tradition by talking with you in the ideal way which we know and the selected tradition which we have followed; that is, dialogue, consultation, and partnership regarding the vital questions of our country so that the national, theoretical, and moral trend will always be effective between you, my dear people, and your first servant and the slave of his God.

My dear people, in order not to prolong your wait for the subject which I will touch upon, I want to tell you first of all that the topic of this speech is that we have decided to hold a referendum. As you know a referendum is the highest form of expressing the national will, because the Constitution makes it mandatory for everyone, even if he is the king of Morocco. A referendum is the highest form of expression and the highest interpretation of the popular will so that it becomes a respected law. In fact, and as you know my dear people, the Moroccan file is presently before the United Nations so that this international organization will organize the referendum in our desert regions.

The idea of a referendum has been in my mind for a long time. The first time I talked about it was to the Spanish in 1965 in Fes on the anniversary of my accession to the throne when I met with Jose Ruiz Solis who was in charge of party affairs. I told him: I do not want a war with Spain and I do not want to see Spain expose an integral part of Morocco to the dangers of quasi-independence and the danger of self-government. The Sahara is a part of our territory and we are part of the Sahara, and in order that we would not fall foul to any tricks, I asked General Franco to hold a referendum in the Sahara in 1965. Since that date we have been calling on international justice to give us our rights.

Then there was the issue of the green march—and it was, thanks to God, a victorious and successful march; we are still harvesting its fruits today. It was a march which indicated that the Sahara is a part and an integral territory of ours because if I had given all Moroccans the chance to take part in such a march they would all have taken part in it. I am sure today that if the situation warrants a similar march, Moroccans would do the same again. Parties and countries which did not want to recognize our rights considered our presence there at that time as similar to the presence of a colonialist and a foreign power to the Saharan people and demanded that we should hold a referendum.

At that time we refused to hold a referendum. However, had it not been for the diverse and repeated wishes expressed by a number of heads of state, brother Arabs and non-Arabs, Europeans, Asians, and Africans, and had it not been for their desire—I do not say pressure because Morocco does not and will not act under pressure—and for their interventions, we would not have accepted a referendum.

And so we agreed. We went to Nairobi a first time and then a second time. The Organization of African Unity was surprised when we announced in an official speech our desire to hold the referendum. Here we must stress an important point for history. That is, I personally believe that former OAU Secretary General Edem Kodjo committed a crime against Africa for which history will not forgive him. He left the door of the African community wide open for the entry of the Martian or extraterrestrial [as heard] republic, thus compelling Morocco to regretfully and sadly leave its seat [in the OAU]. If it had not been for the entry of that alleged republic—5 years ago now—and if Morocco had remained within its African family, by now we certainly would have found an African solution suitable to the African family and fair to the rights of everyone.

Therefore, I believe that the OAU and all the African states, particularly those which voted in favor of the entry of that republic to our community, are still morally responsible because, without realizing it, first of all they did not think Morocco would withdraw [from the OAU] and secondly, they were expecting that Morocco would not hold out; that is, they were expecting to bring Morocco to its knees.

This country does not kneel to anyone except God almighty. Throughout its history, now and in the future it will kneel only to God. Whoever thinks that he can pursue the path of violence or inducement with the Moroccan people without pursuing the path of prudence and virtue as well as good behavior, is totally mistaken, in my opinion.

When we submitted our file to the United Nations we began to hold contacts with the secretary general in order to consider the implementation of this referendum. Since then we have been waiting for the initial processes for organizing the referendum. It has become evident and clear to us that our adversaries—those who are obvious or otherwise—at no time believed in the referendum. Even when they were demanding it and Morocco was refusing it they did not believe in the referendum. This was because most of those adversaries were themselves living in their own country and under the auspices of a referendum or consultation. All of them were with the only party—they did not believe and did not practice consultation or listening to the views of others. Within their narrow education they only believed in violent orders which cannot be appealed against. Right from the very beginning they cast doubt on the democratic and popular method of a referendum at grass roots level, and they are still erecting obstacles. They became so impudent—I do not refer to the so-called republic; no; its allies—the allies became so impudent that they demanded the departure of the Moroccan Administration and Army and tens of thousands of Moroccans who came from the north and settled in the Sahara.

We rejected all that and told the United Nations and the secretary general that if we have to leave, then we will all leave; we will cut the telephone wires; we will dismantle all means of communications; we will fill in all the wells; we will take all vehicles with us, and we will arm the population, as in fact the life of the Saharan people who are in our trust and under our own care and responsibility—we should not always listen to what our adversaries say. [sentence as heard] If we always take into consideration what our adversaries say without being just to the people who are satisfied with their homeland, then we will in fact be criminals toward our Saharan brothers.

If our administration and army left, then since the others are armed with tanks, we would not leave unless we left the tanks. Because of the abilities and numbers, I am convinced that our people would crush the others, but I did not want to reach this kind of breaking ranks.

I have repeatedly said that it is my duty—as it is the duty of every Arab and Muslim, and especially Muslims—to model myself on the ethics of the prophet. The prophet's ethics include kindness to relatives, not to break ranks, and not to exclude those under your guardianship. In order not to prolong the matter by arguments, or to waste time before the referendum, I did not want to give them another excuse to turn to the world and say: Look, here is Morocco giving with one hand and taking with the other.

What is the issue? The issue is that next year, approximately in September, parliamentary and municipal elections will take place. The elections should take place everywhere in Moroccco, from La Guera to Tangiers. It is incomprehensible to say that since there is to be a referendum, then the Saharan provinces cannot elect their representatives to the Parliament or to the municipal councils.

In order to show the world conscience and those of good intentions, again, and in order to refute all the evidence of our enemies, we have decided to postpone the elections everywhere in Morocco for 2 years.

As you know, my dear people, the term of office of the parliamentarians—whether those who were directly selected or those who came indirectly from the municipal councils or the professional groups—is specified by the Constitution, and cannot be increased or decreased except by referendum. This is because our Constitution does not contain any other way to change its contents except by referendum and going back to the people.

Therefore, my dear people, it is in our interest; trust me, because I did not decide this matter until I had examined all its aspects, and until I had thought over all its

repercussions, and until I had analyzed, as much as I could as I am only human, its positive and negative points. In the end it became clear in my mind and also in my heart, and according to my political experience. There are people who accept the idea of a sixth sense, and others who do not. You should thank God almighty that in the issue of the Sahara and in all the important issues for the country, the issues of destiny as far as our sovereignty is concerned—I do not say that this is a gift from God, no, it is experience. For 35 or 40 years now I have had experience in these matters, and I was fortunate to practice with respectable colleagues, some of them died and others are still alive. All of us colleagues learned this sixth sense from our teacher and tutor, Mohamed V.

My dear people, I tell you with all sincerity that my conscience, my analysis, and my logic tells me this: We ask you to answer yes with full confidence regarding this question, and (?if you so wish) we will increase the term of this parliament by 2 years and delay the whole election for 2 years, or not. My advice to you is that you should say yes we will prolong the term. However, if you deisre not to prolong it, the final word will remain with you and will always be with you, and at the time of the referendum you will see me, my dear people, as one of you.

The voting booths will see me when there is another referendum. When a fateful question arises by way of referendum, I am one of the citizens. As long as law allows me to take part in the referendum, it means that the law is telling me that your yes or no might be wrong and that you have made a mistake like other mistaken people. [sentence as heard] However, in this case it cannot be wrong. We know and you know and I live the question of the Saharan day and night. I know the minute details of it and nearly every speck of sand has its history paper with its number drawn in my mind, because this is a trust which I have taken on myself and we must take it to the end until God decrees to give it to someone else. But as long as I am entrusted with the question of the Sahara, I will know no rest nor peace of mind until this issue ends, and tomorrow it will end, God willing. Tomorrow it will end with our victory because nothing can overcome right. You will always remember how our master Mohamed V, God bless his remains, said: No right can be lost as long as there is a claimant.

Why this 2 years [postponement]? Why not 1 year or why not 3 years? We believe that those 2 years (?from January) is enough to organize the referendum and the timetable of the referendum. We are awaiting great good from our friend Perez de Cuellar and the United Nations' bodies and from all those with good intentions, and we hope that they will not be late in organizing the referendum. This is not meant to be a threat because threats are not in my character, nor is it moral pressure at all. Morocco has never dealt with people the way thieves do. Thank God Morocco is not a thief. Morocco has never taken anything of others, and has never stretched its hands except to its own property. However, if after the 2 years the referendum has not taken place, then it will be time to deduce from that procrastination, or delay the proper conclusions and with the spirit of responsibility which should be the proper feeling of every independent and sovereign state. Therefore, my dear people, let us rely on God.

Therefore dear people, let us rely upon almighty God and extend the life of this parliament another 2 years, remain steadfast behind our borders, carry on with our development program in our Saharan provinces as well as in our northern provinces, and open our eyes to the world which today is witnessing developments that have changed history—not merely the history of a continent because problems today are not confined to a geographical area, as today's world problems are not ideological ones; they are problems relating to how the way of life should be modeled.

How should we resolve problems, particularly economic ones? Should they be resolved through democracy, through decentralization, and through individual and collective responsibility, or should they be resolved through a rigid and inflexible bureaucracy carried out by a small minority of people to the exclusion of others? We are surrounded today by a struggle which is no longer an ideological one; it is a struggle about the methods of development. Thus, we should open our eyes on the external world, open our ears and our minds and give the opportunity of another 2 years to our friends and to just people to carry out the referendum, which we want to be an international one through which the international community would recognize for good, our borders.

It was possible for me to come to an agreement on certain things with our neighbors, but look what has happened between Iran and Iraq because the agreement was a bilateral one. And as soon as there was an opportunity, matters [not further specified] have been left hanging. Despite the cease-fire, war can start anew any day, and that is why I did not [have a bilateral agreement]. And that is why I want, for you dear people, for our neighbors, and for our continent, borders which are internationally recognized.

And only a sound, calm, and just referendum can give us such borders. In order that such a sound, calm, and just referendum be carried out as we want it, I do not want to give any other reasons which can be interpreted by some people that we are trying to organize a referendum in a place which itself is a subject of a referendum—the Sahara is Moroccan. However, we find people who are still asking if we should hold a referendum; let us hold it then, if this is what you want. In fact we are the ones who are reaching out with a challenge, not them. And in order that we challenge them we are asking them if they do not consider the Sahara as Moroccan—let them then come over and tell us so.

Therefore dear people, I would like you to understand me very well. I do not want to influence your wish nor your will. However, out of my duty I should let you know

which way my heart leans. My heart, my mind, my analyses all lean toward this: We should add 2 extra years in the life span of this parliament. God willing, this referendum campaign will take between 9 and 10 days. Next Friday [1 December] not this coming Friday but a week from Friday, we will all meet, each one in his or her district at their polling stations, hoping that God will have inspired us to make the right choice. May we rely on God in our choice. God is merciful and compassionate, and if you are determined then rely on God.

Kuwait

Government Denounces Assassination of Mu'awwad

LD2211222189 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1910 GMT 22 Nov 89

[Text] Kuwait, 22 Nov (KUNA)—Kuwait this evening denounced the assassination of the elected Lebanese President Rene Mu'awwad and expressed the hope the Lebanese leadership would deprive everyone of the opportunity to harm and disunite Lebanon.

A responsible source in Kuwait, which has been pained by the news of the assassination of Lebanese President Rene Mu'awwad and his entourage, denounces this sinful incident, which is aimed at shaking its entity and unity.

[Words indistinct] their efforts to converge in order to stop Lebanon's ordeal, working as one for its unity, independence, and stability. Kuwait sends its condolences to the family of Lebanese President Rene Mu'awwad and to the families of his entourage, who were assassinated in this painful incident, and wishes the wounded a speedy recovery.

Amir, Heir Apparent Receive Yasir 'Arafat

JN2211105589 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 22 Nov 89

[Text] His Excellency Yasir 'Arafat, president of the fraternal State of Palestine; and the delegation accompanying him, at 1030 today visited his brother his highness the Kuwaiti amir at the Bayan Palace, during their private visit to the country.

Attending the meeting were Rashid 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rashid, minister of state for cabinet affairs; and the ambassador of the fraternal State of Palestine to Kuwait.

His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister, at 1230 today received his brother Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine, and the delegation accompanying him in his office at the Bayan Palace.

Attending the meeting were Rashid 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rashid, minister of state for cabinet affairs, and the ambassador of the State of Palestine in Kuwait.

President Yasir 'Arafat arrived in the country today on a short visit.

He was received at the airport by the minister of state for cabinet affairs, Palestine National Council Deputy Speaker Salim al-Za'nun, and Palestinian ambassador in Kuwait 'Awni Battash.

Defense Minister Emphasizes Egyptian Relations

NC2111113189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0755 GMT 21 Nov 89

[Text] Kuwait, 21 Nov (MENA)—Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Sabah has emphasized the strength of Kuwaiti-Egyptian ties and the steady progress in bilateral relations. He described these relations as deep-rooted and strong in all fields, particularly in the military domain.

In an interview today with the MENA correspondent in Kuwait before his upcoming official visit to Egypt on 25 November, the Kuwaiti defense minister said he looks forward to visiting Cairo to convey his greetings to President Husni Mubarak and the fraternal Egpytian people. Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad pointed out the purpose of his visit to Egypt is to hold talks with General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, minister of defense and war production, on ways to promote military cooperation between the two countries. The Kuwaiti minister emphasized that Egyptian arms have proven the efficiency of the Arab war industry, adding his country encourages the establishment of an advanced Arab military industry.

Regarding Kuwait's armament policy, the Kuwaiti minister said his country follows a policy of diversifying its sources of armament in order to meet the needs of its Armed Forces, because this gives Kuwait more freedom of choice. He noted Kuwait is modernizing and strengthening its Armed Forces in times of both peace and war and toward that end, it chooses the military hardware that best suits its needs.

Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad called for devising a pan-Arab plan for war industry within the framework of pan-Arab security, with a view to producing highly sophisticated and reliable weapons that would meet international standards and achieve the purpose for which this industry was established.

In response to a question on a formula for military cooperation among the three Arab groupings which currently exist in the Arab world, the Kuwaiti defense minister said Kuwait would welcome any well-studied version that would bring about rapproachement, cooperation, and common benefit in the Arab world and for the interest of pan-Arab security, whether in the military or other fields. He noted the exchange of expertise and joint training in the military field are instrumental in such cooperation. The Kuwaiti minister expressed his belief it will be essential and beneficial for the Arab world to reconsider and reevaluate the Arab common defense pact in light of recent developments.

Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad expressed hope that peace will be restored in the Gulf, noting the foreign navies now present in the Gulf are there to protect international navigation. Once peace prevails in the region, there will be no need for them, he concluded.

Soviet Oil Minister Confers With Officials

Arrives, Makes Statement

LD1711211589 Kuwait KUNA in English 0806 GMT 17 Nov 89

[Excerpt] Kuwait, Nov 17 (KUNA)—Soviet Minister of Construction of Oil and Gas Industry Enterprises Vladimir Chirskov arrived here last night on a three-day official visit to Kuwait.

In a statement to KUNA on arrival, the Soviet minister said that his talks with Kuwaiti officials will tackle issues of oil cooperation, particularly a project, which is currently under implementation.

He indicated that he would brief the Kuwaiti side on Soviet Union's capability and projects in oil sectors as "we construct each year about 20,000 km of pipes which," he added, "is equivalent to the yearly production of the world."

Chirskov is to have talks Friday evening with Kuwaiti Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifa al-'Adhbi. [passage omitted]

Meets With Counterpart

LD1811060589 Kuwait KUNA in English 1952 GMT 17 Nov 89

[Text] Kuwait, Nov 17 (KUNA)—Visiting Soviet Minister of Construction of Oil and Gas Vladimir Chirskov met here Friday evening with Kuwaiti Minister of Oil Shaykh 'Ali al-Sabah and discussed with him bilateral cooperation between Kuwait and Moscow in the field of oil industry, Kuwaiti official sources said. No further details were available regarding the talks Chirskov has had with Shaykh 'Ali.

The Soviet Ambassador to Kuwait Ernest Zverev and members of the delegation accompanying the Soviet minister attended the meeting which was attended from the Kuwaiti side by senior officials from the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation and other Kuwaiti oil and chemicals companies.

Concludes 4-Day Visit

JN1911125489 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 19 Nov 89

[Text] Vladimir Chirskov, Soviet minister of construction of petroleum and gas industry enterprises, left Kuwait at the end of a 4-day official visit, during which he met with Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah al-'Adhbi and discussed with him bilateral cooperation in the field of oil industry. He also visited the head office of the Kuwait Oil Company and met with 'Abd-al-Malik al- Gharabani, chairman of the company's board of directors.

Iraq's Hammadi Arrives With Saddam Message

JN1911085089 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0815 GMT 19 Nov 89

[Text] Kuwait, 19 Nov (INA)—Dr Sa'dun Hammadi, deputy prime minister and envoy of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, arrived here this morning carrying a written message from His Excellency President Saddam Husayn to his brother His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad, amir of the State of Kuwait.

On arrival, Dr Sa'dun Hammadi told INA that he will hold talks with the Kuwaiti brothers on bilateral ties and ways to enhance them, adding that Iraq and Kuwait are fraternal Arab states. He went on to say that Iraq is eager to consult with Kuwait and exchange views with it on issues of mutual interest to help strengthen bilateral ties.

Dr Sa'dun Hammadi is scheduled to convey President Saddam Husayn's message later today.

Delivers Message

JN1911125889 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 19 Nov 89

[Text] His highness the amir of Kuwait received Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi at 1000 today. Hammadi conveyed to his highness a message from his brother President Saddam Husayn, president of the sisterly Republic of Iraq.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, attended the audience.

Departs After Visit

JN2011162589 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 20 Nov 89

[Text] Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Sa'dun Hammadi left the country this evening after a visit during which he conveyed a message to his highness the amir of Kuwait from his brother President Saddam Husayn. He was seen off by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Sulayman Majid al-Shahin, the Foreign Ministry under secretary; and senior Foreign Ministry officials.

Iraqi Foreign Affairs Official Departs for Riyadh

LD2111185489 Kuwait KUNA in English 1648 GMT 21 Nov 89

[Text] Kuwait, Nov 21 (KUNA)—Iraqi Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs Wisam al-Zahawi [name as received] left here this evening heading for Riyadh after a brief visit to Kuwait.

The Iraqi official, who arrived here last night, met during his stay here with Minister of Foreign Affairs Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad and Foreign [word indistinct] Secretary Sulayman al-Shahin briefing them on the talks of UN special envoy Jan Eliasson.

Last week, Eliasson shuttled between Tehran and Baghdad seeking to break the deadlock in talks over a formal peace agreement between the two adversaries.

Before leaving the region, Eliasson said that his mission was not successful enough to convince the two countries to normalize their relations and end their dispute.

But he added that efforts of the United Nations will continue until a settlement is reached and a new page is started.

Saudi Arabia

Assassination of Lebanon's Mu'awwad Condemned

LD2211222289 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2133 GMT 22 Nov 89

[Text] Riyadh, 22 Nov (SPA)—The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has expressed its deep regret at the painful incident which led today, Wednesday, to the death of Lebanese President Rene Mu'awwad when his car was the target of a big explosion.

Here is the text of a statement issued by a reliable source to SPA:

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has received with much sadness and regret the news of the assassination of the elected Lebanese President Rene Mu'awwad at a time when the world was expecting with great hopes the relaxation [of tension] which embodies the desire of the Lebanese people which confirmed its determination to choose peace, security, and stability as a way of life and a future for its homeland.

While the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia learned the news of this bestial and sinful aggression with all the feeling of pain, condemnation, and denunciation, it confirms anew that the interest of united, stable and independent Lebanon calls for the uniting of all its sincere sons to confront all the challenges and to overcome all the obstacles to the Arab efforts which are aimed at completing the process, consecrating the legitimacy in all Lebanon and reconstructing lebanon to what it used to be before the years of suffering and destruction.

While the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia shares with the family of the late President Rene Mu'awwad and the dear Lebanese people their painful loss, it beseeches God to inspire them to act rightly to overcome this tragedy and to secure safety for Lebanon, to spare it dangers, and to help its sons to confront all the challenges in the spirit of historical responsibility which they have confirmed they are competent to shoulder.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia from it position within the framework of the Arab tripartite committee confirms anew its continued support for Lebanon and the people of Lebanon in all circumstances. It will not spare any effort to work for the return of security and stability in sisterly Lebanon.

King Fahd Receives Message From Kuwaiti Amir

LD1611102889 Kuwait KUNA in English 0800 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] Jeddah, Nov 16 (KUNA)—Saudi Monarch King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz received Wednesday a message from the amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

The message was delivered by Kuwaiti Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah al-Sabah in the presence of the Saudi Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Hisham al-Nazir.

Shaykh 'Ali who arrived here earlier Wednesday was received by a number of Saudi officials as well as the Kuwaiti deputy consul in Jeddah Sa'ud al-Majdi.

King Receives Message From Oman Sultan

LD2111223189 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2021 GMT 21 Nov 89

[Excerpts] Jeddah, 21 Nov (SPA)—King Fahd Ibn-'Abd al-'Aziz al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, has received a written message from his brother Sultan Qabus Ibn-Sa'id, sultan of Oman.

The message was delivered by the Omani minister of education and youth affairs, Yahya Mafuz al-Mundhuri, when he was received by the king at his office in al-Salam Palace today. [passage omitted]

Yahya Mafuz al-Mundhuri, the Omani minister of education and youth affairs, arrived in Jeddah this afternoon on a visit to Saudi Arabia. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Government Regrets Mu'awwad Assassination

JN2311093689 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0540 GMT 23 Nov 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 23 Nov (WAKH)—The United Arab Emirates has expressed its deep grief and regret over the assassination of Lebanese President Rene Mu'awwad in Beirut yesterday.

In a statement carried by WAM this morning, an official Foreign Ministry source described the assassination as a heinous crime and a great loss for all. The perpetrators, the source added, were trying to stop the peace march, which is based on the principles of national reconciliation aimed at restoring legitimacy and building constitutional institutions to consolidate and entrench security and stability in Lebanon.

The source called on all Lebanese to show self-restraint and to endeavor to achieve the ideal goal—namely, maintaining Lebanon's unity and independence.

Chinese Economic Relations Minister Arrives

JN2311141089 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 23 Nov 89

[Text] Zheng Tuobin, PRC minister of foreign economic relations and trade, arrived in the country this morning. He is heading a high-level Chinese delegation on an official visit to the state to take part in the meetings of the second session of the Emirian-Chinese joint committee, which was formed in pursuance of the economic agreement between the two countries.

The Chinese minister and his delegation were received at al-Shariqah International Airport by Economy and Commerce Minister Sayf al-Jarwan, a number of the ministry officials, and the Chinese ambassador to the state.

The Chinese minister expressed delight over his visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE] and was delighted to learn of the economic and cultural progress in the state under the wise leadership of His Highness Shaykh Zayid Ibn-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the state. In a statement to WAM, he stressed the importance of the joint committee and the effectiveness of its decisions and recommendations in promoting relations between the two countries in the economic, technical, and commercial fields.

Meanwhile, Minister al-Jarwan paid tribute to the remarkable progress in ties and the constructive and fruitful cooperation between the UAE and China that the committee achieved during its first session in Beijing last year. He stressed that the economic relations between the two countries have witnessed noticeable growth, especially in trade exchange, which increased considerably.

Confers With Economy Minister

JN2311165289 Manama WAKH in English 1614 GMT 23 Nov 89

[Text] Dubayy, 23 Nov (GNA)—UAE [United Arab Emirates] Economy and Commerce Minister Sayf al-Jarwan and Chinese Minister of Economic Relations and Foreign Trade Zheng Tuobin today headed the UAE and Chinese sides at the second meeting of the joint UAE-Chinese committee. The meeting reviewed a number of important projects regarding investments and Chinese exports as well as boosting the UAE's exports of chemical fertilizers and aluminium to China.

Al-Jarwan said the UAE's imports from China during the past five years increased from 408 million dirhams to 1.021 billion dirhams by 1988.

Chinese companies receive all support and encouragement in the UAE, he added.

"We hope that our national products find wide acceptance in Chinese markets, especially as such products are of high specifications and quality as well as being competitive," al-Jarwan said.

Interior Minister Receives Egyptian Counterpart

JN2011162289 Manama WAKH in English 1515 GMT 20 Nov 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 20 Nov (GNA)—UAE [United Arab Emirates] Interior Minister Shaykh Mubarak Ibn-Muhammad Al Nuhayyan received this morning Egyptian Interior Minister Major General Zaki Badr, currently visiting the UAE.

They discussed ways to enhance bilateral ties especially in the security areas.

Chad's Acheikh Visits Abu Dhabi, Holds Talks

AB1411213589 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] As part of his tour of the Arabian Gulf, the minister of external relations has just ended a visit to Abu Dhabi, capital of the United Arab Emirates. During his stay in this friendly country, the head of the Chadian diplomatic service had talks with his counterparts of the Emirates, Shaykh Rashid 'Abdallah al-Nu'aymi, to whom he delivered a message from El Haj Hissein Habre for the Emir, Shaykh Zayid Ibn-Sultan. Minister Acheikh Ibn-Oumar also held talks with the minister of justice in charge of Islamic affairs, Shaykh al-Khazraji, as well as with the secretary general of Ara Emirates Development Fund, Mr (Nasr al-Bhutayni). The minister is also expected today in Qatar from Bahrain, where the external relations also delivered to authorities of the country a message from President Hissein Habre.

Editorial Questions USSR's Arab Attitude

JN2411120689 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 22 Nov 89 p 1

[Editorial: "Unreasonable Principles"]

[Text] The Arab League's appeal to the United States to adopt the principle of "reasonable defensive sufficiency" in dealing with the Zionist occupation entity might constitute an attempt to save what one can, now that the Soviet Union has surprised us by its move to restrict the sale of Soviet weapons to the Arabs.

We could have tolerated the Soviet position, had it been conditional on, or linked with, an American pledge to stop arms shipments to Israel or to cancel the strategic alliance agreement with it; or if had it been concluded after a comprehensive political settlement in the Middle East. We wonder how the Soviet Union can reconcile its declared support for the Arab position to restore Arab rights with the new position by which the Soviet Union agrees to U.S. demands for a reduction in Soviet military supplies to the Arab confrontation states.

We believe the Arabs have been true to their principles. They always refused to become a party to any Soviet-U.S. struggle. On the other hand, Israel placed itself in the orbit of U.S. strategy and played a role even in the

Strategic Defense Initiative or the so-called Star Wars program. Israel produced missiles carrying nuclear warheads that the Soviets themselves admitted constitute a threat to the southern Asian part of the USSR.

It may not be mere imagination to speculate there is a deal in the making by which the Soviets are going to pay in advance by abandoning their friendship with the Arabs in various ways, the most prominent of which is leaving the door wide open for the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel and restricting arms sales to the Arabs.

Yemen Arab Republic

Statement Condemns Mu'awwad's Assassination

JN2311212189 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Nov 89

[Text] The following statement was issued today:

The Yemen Arab Republic [YAR] has received with the deepest sorrow the news of the criminal act that took the life of Lebanon's President Rene Mu'awwad and a number of innocent brother Lebanese. The crime is a treacherous stab to sisterly Lebanon at a time when [words indistinct] rise on sisterly Lebanon after long years of war, destruction, and internecine fighting among the sons of one Arab country as a result of factionalism and fanaticism that have compromised the country's independent decisionmaking and made it go round in circles [word indistinct] helped the enemies of the Arab nation implement their conspiracies and plots to detract from the freedom and independence of Lebanon, and obstruct all peace efforts aimed at safeguarding its [word indistinct] security, independence, and Arabism, and to extricate it from the tragedy from which it has suffered for too long.

As the YAR condemns this treacherous aggression hoping for Lebanese reconciliation and legitimacy, it urges the Lebanese people and all patriotic forces to assume their nationalist responsibilities with courage and wisdom to forestall the enemies of our nation. As the YAR condemns this criminal act, it supports all well-intentioned steps toward restoring legitimacy with the election of a new president acceptable to the Lebanese people so that all the enemies are denied an opening and sisterly Lebanon can regain its freedom and national independence to devote itself to rebuilding what has been destroyed by war and continue its civilized march in a spirit of harmony, brotherhood, and altruism.

Minister Interviewed on Union of Two Yemens

JN2311163089 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Nov 89

[Telephone interview with Hasan al-Lawzi, information minister of the Yemen Arab Republic, YAR, by unidentified reporter—date not given]

[Text] [Reporter] According to news reports, His Excellency President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih is to visit Aden at the end of the month, when a number of unionist agreements are expected to be signed between the two halves of Yemen. What is the nature of these agreements, and what progress have unity steps between the two halves achieved?

[Al-Lawzi] An announcement will be made about President Salih's visit to Aden on 30 November to mark the independence anniversary of the southern half of the homeland and the departure of the last British soldier. Coinciding with the visit will be the proclamation of a new unionist step that will mark an advance on the Higher Yemeni Council and the Ministerial Committee. The step will fit in with a transitional stage that should lead to a melding of the two halves with the merging of a number of ministries, most notably the Foreign Ministry, and of the Armed Forces within the context of a unionist government receiving instructions from the united political leadership of the two halves of the homeland. As for unionist steps, these have produced positive results as manifest in the new unionist approach that seeks to bring forward the day of full union between the two halves of the nation and realize the popular dream to overcome the splitting of one territory and one people.

[Reporter] Is this to say that union between the two halves of the Yemen will begin with a confederacy ?

[Al-Lawzi] Confederacy, by definition, takes place between diverse peoples. It cannot possibly underlie unionist action regarding a single people. The Yemeni people are one. If we talk about confederacy, we will be dividing one people into two and into two discrete states. Yemeni masses, as is evident from cables sent to the political leaders in the two halves these days, are pressing for a complete merger of the two halves.

[Reporter] Is a joint government going to be composed of the two halves?

[Al-Lawzi] Without a doubt, the step involves one government alongside two local governments in the two halves.

[Reporter] What about the presidency? Will there be a rotating higher presidential council?

[Al-Lawzi] I cannot go into this now. These details will be made public in due course. We in the Yemen regard Yemeni unity the cornerstone of a wider Arab unity and it confirms a reality already in place as a result of enmeshed social, historical, and economic ties. Yemeni unity has a pan-Arab dimension.

[Reporter] I understand from your answers and from efforts being made that something new will emerge from Aden at the end of the month?

[Al-Lawzi] Without a doubt, and God willing, something new will emerge that will improve upon the progress made so far in the unity area and related structures in the two halves. Certainly, there will be an advance on the existing structures of the Higher Yemeni Council, its satellite Ministerial Council, and the Secretariat of the Yemeni Council. There will be an important shift down the road to full union between the two halves of the homeland.

[Reporter] Thanks to Hasan al-Lawzi, YAR information minister.

[Al-Lawzi] Thanks to you.

Government, Media React to Mu'awwad's Death

Spokesman Denounces Killing

JN2311115689 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0948 GMT 23 Nov 89

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Nov (INA)—An official spokesman for the Iraqi Government has commented on the tragic incident in which Mr Rene Mu'awwad was killed.

In a statement issued here today, the spokesman said: The tragic incident that killed Mr Rene Mu'awwad, who was elected by the Lebanese deputies as president of Lebanon on 5 November, is a mean criminal act, an additional element of sedition, and another malicious link in the chain of the criminal conspiracy against Lebanon and the Arab nation.

He added: The experience of 15 years has proven that the chain of murder, destruction, and crime in Lebanon will not end as long as the collaborator criminals of the Hafiz al-Asad, Zionist, and Iranian forces continue to occupy, corrupt, and control Lebanon.

Those who are hunting the killers of Rene Mu'awwad should search the bags of the criminals who have used the same criminal methods and tools to kill many Lebanese key figures, such as former President Bashir al-Jumayyil, and before him, Kamal Junblatt, and after him, Rashid Karami, Mufti Hasan Khalid, Deputy Kazim al-Qadiri, and other political figures; this is apart from the large number of Lebanese nationalists and pan-Arab vanguards who have been killed in the same contemptible ways.

It is clear those who killed Rene Mu'awwad are those who thought he would oppose their major objectives of creating intra-Lebanese struggle and liquidating those who call for Lebanon's salvation and freedom.

This horrifying crime re-emphasizes Lebanon's salvation cannot be achieved by bargaining and flattery instead of justice and facts. It is indeed possible to put Lebanon on the path of salvation when the true criminals, who occupied Lebanon and tampered with it for over 15 long years, are identified and when action is taken to get these criminals out of Lebanon, or to make it possible for the Lebanese themselves to drive out these criminals. This will give the Lebanese the opportunity to work and talk safely and constructively with a view to restoring their country's unity and normal life.

In this respect, everyone should bear in mind the interests of the Arab nation, its overall security, and the rules that govern relations between Arab countries, and which must not be taken lightly.

Paper Blames Syria, Iran

JN2311101289 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0640 GMT 23 Nov 89

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Nov (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYH has charged the Syrian and Iranian regimes with involvement in the assassination of Lebanese President-Elect Rene Mu'awwad. In an editorial today, AL-JUMHURIYAH said:

An official Lebanese statement yesterday announced the death of Lebanese President-Elect Rene Mu'awwad in a deliberate explosion that also killed and injured dozens of others.

News agencies say this grotesque crime was perpetrated in West Beirut, where Syrian forces are deployed and control all activities.

The circumstances and background of the crime reveal the identity of the perpetrators. There is a strong possibility the Syrian regime itself, or its Iranian ally, or both, are behind this grotesque act. This not only is because it was perpetrated in an area where Syrian forces are deployed, but because of the nature of these regimes and their methods of work in, and intentions toward, Lebanon; and finally, their history in Lebanon is replete with this kind of murder.

AL-JUMHURIYAH said: The perpetrators of this deed clearly want to bring the Lebanese situation to a crisis and to resume infighting and bloodshed, to keep Lebanon in the maelstrom of dismemberment and division in order to maintain their hegemony over Lebanon, and to implement their divisionist plots in it and at its expense. No one has a vested interest in this except the Syrian regime and its ally, the Iranian regime.

The Syrian regime, which was forced to bow to the al-Ta'if agreement and to pretend it had accepted and adopted it, has in fact been trying to undermine the agreement by interfering in Lebanon's internal affairs. It has been trying to incite certain Lebanese forces against each other to make them fight among themselves. This is because this regime failed to contain these forces.

As for the Iranian regime, its hostility to the al-Ta'if accord and its results has been open. It was completely dissatisfied with any Arab solution to the Lebanese crisis. It summoned its agents and those of the Syrian regime to Tehran to incite them against the al-Ta'if conference and to urge them to reject its outcome.

The paper said: Therefore, we do not rule out the possibility one of these two regimes, or both, was behind this crime, no matter how they shed tears about Mu'awwad's killing and regardless of how they denounce the killers. These two regimes are well-known for killing people and attending their funerals. Their history in Lebanon is full of similar terrorist crimes, and the list of their Lebanese victims is very long.

Therefore, we must note that this hideous deed should be regarded as a vicious plot against Lebanon and the Arab nation, designed to perpetuate the infighting and war in Lebanon and push it toward partition—an aim which the Syrian and Iranian regimes are pursuing as a plot against the Arab nation.

While condemning this grotesque deed and denouncing its perpetrators, we reaffirm the source of hatred in Lebanon is the Syrian, Zionist, and Iranian occupation, and that the road to Lebanese reconciliation and the way to preserve Lebanon's unity and national independence is by making the occupiers withdraw and by allowing the Lebanese people to solve their own problems within the framework of an Arab solution.

Yasir 'Arafat Arrives for Meeting 23 Nov

JN2311181589 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Nov 89

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine, arrived in Baghdad this evening. He was received at the airport by comrades the deputy official in charge of the Revolution Command Council Liberation Movements Office, Office members, and the staff of the Embassy of the State of Palestine in Baghdad.

Confers With Tariq 'Aziz

JN2311195889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1915 GMT 23 Nov 89

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Nov (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, this evening met with Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine. They discussed recent developments and the situation in the region, issues related to the Palestine question, and the struggle of the Palestinian Arab people to achieve their legitimate right to self-determination and to the establishment of their free, independent state.

Oil Minister Leaves for Vienna OPEC Meeting

JN2311152389 Baghdad INA in English 1230 GMT 23 Nov 89

[Text] Baghdad, Nov. 23, INA—Mr 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim, oil minister, headed this morning for Vienna to attend the 4th meeting of the eight-man ministerial committee affiliate of OPEC due to be held there later today.

The minister told INA that the meeting would discuss several topics pertaining to the current and future situation of the international oil market and fixing the proper level of the output ceiling of the OPEC for next period.

The minister expressed hope that the conference would reach an agreement in favour of all OPEC countries, referring that Iraq was seeking to reach resolutions that would guarantee interest of OPEC member-states to promote its role and status in the international oil market.

Atomic Energy Conference Concludes 23 Nov

JN2311185389 Baghdad INA in English 1755 GMT 23 Nov 89

[Text] Baghdad, Nov. 23, INA—The Iraqi Atomic Energy Organization concluded here today its three-day conference.

The conference discussed 266 research papers dealing with four major topics, namely agriculture, life sciences, atomic medicine and prevention from radiation.

Participants in the conference attended a lecture on activities and programs of the Atomic Energy Agency (AEA) presented by the deputy director of the AEA, and the other on a joint project between Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the AEA on atomic techniques in food, agriculture and life technology.

The conference was attended by representatives from the AEA, FAO, delegation from atomic energy agencies in 30 countries as well as 120 Iraqi researchers representing various scientific research establishments.

During the conference, an exhibition on scientific achievements of the Iraqi Atomic Energy Organization was opened. It displayed various products and specialized uses of the atomic energy in food preservation and manufacturing of medical and pharmacological products.

UN Delegate, Perez de Cuellar Review Eliasson Tour

JN2211190689 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1730 GMT 22 Nov 89

[Text] The United Nations, 22 Nov (INA)—Permanent Iraqi UN delegate ambassador 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari met here last night with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Dr al-Anbari reviewed with Javier Perez de Cuellar the outcome of the recent tour of the region made by UN envoy Jan Eliasson, personal representative of the UN secretary general in the Iraqi-Iranian negotiations, and his talks with Iraqi officials during the past few weeks.

Ambassador al-Anbari earlier held meetings with the ambassadors of some of the permanent members of the UN Security Council, including the USSR and PRC ambassadors. He also held talks with the ambassador of Canada, a nonpermanent member of the UN Security Council.

Ambassador al-Anbari will continue during the coming 2 days his meetings with members of the UN Security Council to brief them on Iraq's stance on direct negotiations and the need to implement UN Security Council Resolution No 598.

INA correspondents said the UN Security Council will meet in an informal session in the afternoon of 27 November to listen to a report from the UN secretary general on the outcome of the recent shuttle trips between Baghdad and Tehran made by UN envoy Eliasson.

'Aziz Returns From Jordan Visit 22 Nov

JN2211154389 Baghdad INA in English 1510 GMT 22 Nov 89

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 22, INA—President Saddam Husayn's envoy to King Husayn of Jordan, Mr Tariq 'Aziz, deputy premier and foreign minister, returned to Baghdad this afternoon.

Mr. 'Aziz conveyed a message from President Husayn to the Jordanian monarch within the frame of consultations between his excellency and King Husayn and the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC).

Mr 'Aziz also held talks with Jordanian Premier Zayd Bin-Shakir and his counterpart Mr Marwan al-Qasim tackled means of promoting bilateral relations and efforts to find a just and lasting peace to the conflict between Iraq and Iran on the basis of Security Council Resolution 598.

Shomron Foresees No Intervention in Lebanon

TA2211183589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 22 Nov 89

[Text] Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Dan Shomron says Israel will not intervene following today's assassination in Lebanon, unless it finds it necessary to do so. The chief of staff said it is difficult to know how Syria will react, but he said it is clear Damascus is losing patience with General 'Awn and wants him out. Gen Shomron addressed the Foreign Press Association today. Reporter Le'a Zinder has more:

[Zinder] Chief of Staff Lt Gen Dan Shomron said this evening that today's murder of the newly-elected Lebanese president is further evidence of the anarchy in that country and their inability to create a stable central government. This proves the continuing need for the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] to guard Israel's northern border, said the chief of staff, and to take all necessary action to prevent the buildup of a terrorist infrastructure that might act against us. In principle, said the chief of staff, Israel does not interfere in Lebanese affairs as long as there is no direct threat by Syria or anyone else on the northern border.

Lt Gen Shomron added that it is hard to predict whether Syria will now intervene in Lebanon. We are likely to witness growing tension on the part of Syria, he said, and can expect them to activate their proxies: the Druze, Hizballah, and perhaps Amal. Syria may also assist them with artillery and arms and possibly certain Syrian units may try to help them. There can be no doubt, said the chief of staff, that Syria is losing its patience with Michel 'Awn and wants to see him out of the B'abda Palace.

The chief of staff also remarked that he had heard what he called the interesting remarks by the Soviet ambassador in Damascus, stating that Syria should realize that it is incapable of achieving a military solution in the Middle East. We will follow developments, said Lt Gen Shomron, and see if this statement has a practical application. So far, noted Shomron, we see a continuation of the supply of sophisticated and modern weapons sent to Syria by the Soviet Union, including planes, tanks, and sophisticated ground-to-air missiles.

Netanyahu on Mu'awwad Assassination, Situation

TA2211184689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 22 Nov 89

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu expressed regret at today's assassination [of Lebanese President Rene Mu'awwad]. Netanyahu told reporter Jack Katzenell that the killing shows the political environment in which Israel finds itself.

[Begin recording] [Netanyahu] This is another link in the chain of Lebanon's tragedy. It tells us what kind of neighborhood we have been living in, one of endemic assassinations, violence, intolerance. I am afraid that the winds of liberalism that have swept across Eastern Europe have not yet arrived to the Middle East.

[Katzenell] This was a Syrian-backed president. In a practical sense, does it make any difference to Israel?

[Netanyahu] Our interest in Lebanon is to have a secure border with Lebanon. For that purpose, we would need a strong central government able to police Lebanon's borders. We had hoped that there would be some progress to that event towards that end. It's very clear that there is very little of that.

[Katzenell] Does this mean that the conflict in Lebanon between General Michel 'Awn and his supporters on one hand, and the other factions on the other is not in Israel's interest?

[Netanyahu] Israel follows carefully what is going on in Lebanon, but Israel's main interest—main and only interest—is to protect its northern border. For that purpose, we maintain our policy of the security zone in the south of Lebanon. What happens beyond that is of interest, but it is not a direct Israeli interest. [end recording]

Broadcast Calls Mu'awwad Syria's 'New Victim'

JN2311160389 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1435 GMT 23 Nov 89

["Observation" by 'Ezra Shirazi]

[Text] No two observers can disagree on the fact that the assassination of Lebanese President-elect Rene Mu'awwad and the circumstances surrounding it dealt a severe blow to Al-Asad's Syria, particularly as this assassination was carried out under the nose of the Syrian troops and their intelligence organs. It is to be recalled that Damascus placed all of its weight behind efforts to elect the late president.

Moreover, this assassination has also dealt a serious blow to the al-Ta'if accord on which strong hopes were pinned. It was hoped that this accord would help rid Lebanon of its tragic ordeal and set its feet on the course of stability and recovery. Besides, no two observers can ever disagree that the assassination of the late President Rene Mu'awwad was aimed first and foremost at assassinating the al-Ta'if accord. Hence, the party or parties involved in the crime must be an opponent or opponents of the al-Ta'if accord. It is true that the camp of General Michel 'Awn and his supporters has always been publicly opposed to the al-Ta'if accord. Serious questions about its involvement in the assassination might be entertained. However, objectivity dictates that we indicate that other Lebanese parties have opposed the al-Ta'if accord. These parties have not attempted to conceal their objections to or reservations on the al-Ta'if accord. Some of these parties might be more fanatic than Gen 'Awn's camp in their stand opposing the aforesaid accord.

The Hizballah militias are among those opposing the al-Ta'if accord. These militias expressed their strong opposition of the accord and adopted a stand similar to the one espoused by Iran which believes that the al-Ta'if accord undermines the rights of Muslims in Lebanon. It is also well known that both Nabih Birri, leader of the Shiite Amal Movement, and Walid Junblatt, leader of the Druze, have not concealed their reservations over the al-Ta'if accord.

The assassination of the late President Rene Mu'awwad has dealt a serious blow to the accord. However, it is premature right now to say for sure that the al-Ta'if accord has also been assassinated or that this accord is in its death throes. The Lebanese situation, which has always been characterized by fluidity, has become more fluid. In fact, this fluidity has become mercurial. Meanwhile, we can safely say that the late President Rene Mu'awwad has become a new victim of the Damascus rulers and of their going to extremes in their efforts to implement their scheme, which seeks to turn Lebanon into a Syrian protectorate. The assassination of the late president is a tragic end to another chapter in the book of the bloody Lebanese tragedy that has been going on for 14 years.

All Planes Return After Air Raid in Lebanon

TA2311131089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 23 Nov 89

[Text] Air Force planes attacked terrorist targets northeast of Lake al-Qir'awn in southern Lebanon this afternoon. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the targets were hit and that all our aircraft returned safely to their bases. The targets that were raided served Jibril's organization as a command post and a departure base for attacks on Israel.

'Arafat's 'Top Secret' Letter to Bush Detailed

TA2211120089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 22 Nov 89

[Report by Arab affairs correspondent Aharon Barne'a]

[Text] We have in our possession the full text of the letter Yasir 'Arafat sent to George Bush. It is classified top secret. It contains six clauses, and I would say that some of them may be important.

The first clause opens with wishes 'Arafat sends President Bush. He then very decisively stresses his commitment to the achievement of a just and viable peace between the Palestinians and the Israelis.

In the second clause 'Arafat says: The Palestinian people believe that the U.S. commitment to the security of the State of Israel should not prevent the United States from assuming a balanced policy which takes into consideration the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people and the needs of both sides to the dispute.

In the fourth clause, 'Arafat refers to the Israeli-Palestinian dialogue. Here he expresses deep concern over the formation of the extreme, radical axis, mainly in the territories. In this clause 'Arafat says that the Israeli government has been maintaining a position which hinders all the opportunities of advancement. It is obvious that Israel does not view the dialogue as a mechanism for building trust or a step toward a full solution. Instead, Israel is offering to hold elections under occupation, while it really wants to establish a body that would replace the PLO.

Naturally, 'Arafat says, our men in the territories are aware of these Israeli tactics, and therefore, they will foil any attempt by Israel to attain this goal. On the other hand, there is an increase in the number of Palestinians—including the residents of the territories—who believe that Israel is not seriously searching for a political solution. This creates an atmosphere which encourages the extremists to clash with the moderate elements, 'Arafat says. This situation makes it very hard on us. We find it increasingly harder to have hope for long. We are losing our patience.

A firm U.S. stand toward Israel would raise new hopes and would convince the Palestinians to further cultivate positive positions, while encouraging Israel to adopt a reasonable stand which would enable us to take the first steps in the process. 'Arafat adds: Remarks made by Israeli officials have been twisting the meaning of the dialogue and making it extremely hard on the Palestinian people to positively accept the proposed formula.

In the fifth clause 'Arafat says that the PLO is still determined to cooperate with Egypt and the United States to increase the chances of attaining peace in the region. He adds again: This will be done together with other Arab countries to emphasize their common strategy for peace.

In the sixth clause 'Arafat says that he hopes substantial progress toward peace will be made within the next few weeks. He stresses the desire to enter a dialogue toward peace with Israel, and to take the steps that would follow. If this is done under the appropriate conditions, 'Arafat says, this dialogue would serve as the starting point en route to a just and viable peace in the region. This is, more or less, the full text of the letter.

So far we have heard no response from Jerusalem.

Officials Refuse To Comment

TA2211173889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 22 Nov 89

[Text] Political circles in Jerusalem refused to comment on the message sent by Yasir 'Arafat to President Bush. They reiterated their position that Israel does not view the PLO as a party in negotiations, and that the PLO is likely to be destructive to the peace process.

Our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen reports that Shim'on Shamir, Israel's ambassador in Egypt, today met in Jerusalem with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens for a routine consultation.

Abu-Sharif Discusses Baker Plan, 'Rejectionists'

TA2211120989 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 Nov 89 p 2

[Telephone interview with Bassam Abu-Sharif "in Tunis" by London-based correspondent Sha'ul Tzadqa; date not given]

[Text] [Tzadqa] Has the PLO accepted U.S. Secretary of State Baker's five-point plan?

[Abu-Sharif] I cannot speak about this, but I can tell you that we have delivered a positive and straightforward response.

[Tzadqa] When and to whom did you deliver your response?

[Abu-Sharif] Yasir 'Arafat sent a letter to President Bush 48 hours ago.

[Tzadqa] Can we therefore assume that the PLO has agreed to exclude itself from the initial stage of negotiations?

[Abu-Sharif] The PLO cannot be excluded from the process in any way. If Israel wants to compose the Palestinian delegation, logic dictates that we should then nominate Israel's representatives. How can talks be held without the PLO?

[Tzadqa] By limiting participation in the talks to residents of the territories.

[Abu-Sharif] But who are the residents of the territories? My cousins and sisters. The difference is merely semantic. No one can separate the Al-Masri family living in Nabulus from members of the same family living today in Tunis or London.

[Tzadqa] You therefore support the Baker initiative. What will be the next stage in the negotiation process?

[Abu-Sharif] I do not know, but we are waiting for the U.S. reply, and maybe a meeting will now be held between the foreign ministers of Israel, the United States, and Egypt. In my opinion, the ball is now in the Israeli court, not with the United States.

[Tzadqa] Can we expect a cease-fire in the territories after talks begin?

[Abu-Sharif] If the Israeli forces stop shooting at the Palestinians, there will be a cease-fire. The intifadah, as you know, is a reaction to the Israeli occupation. The occupation forces will not even let them fly the flag. There is no doubt that the intifadah will continue as long as the occupation is in force.

[Tzadqa] What do you have to say about the rejectionist front within the PLO? How does it accept your support of the Baker plan?

[Abu-Sharif] The Israeli Government's greatest mistake is in not realizing that there is no large rejectionist front, a front with the power to block the peace process, inside the PLO. The decisionmakers within the PLO are those in favor of peace, while unfortunately the Israeli decisionmakers are the rejectionists. That is why we appeal to the Israeli public from here to exert pressure on your leadership to call a halt to its present policy, and to sit with us to discuss the future of our children. I heard Shamir say that Israel does not conquer but rather liberate, and I laughed. I cannot understand how someone can be so stuck in the past in a rapidly changing world. In a period when even the Berlin Wall no longer exists, the Israeli citizens must replace him with someone else, someone who is more aware of changes taking place in the world.

[Tzadqa] Do you believe that a day will come when Shamir and 'Arafat will shake hands?

[Abu-Sharif] 'Arafat's position is clear. He is waiting for a courageous leader from the other side to talk with. We already have enough hands to shake. We do not have any problems negotiating with Shamir. The problems are all on the Israeli side. You, and not I, will be sent to prison if we meet.

Arens' Message Termed 'Tougher' Than Resolution

TA2211171889 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 22 Nov 89 p 2

[Report by political correspondent Daniyel Ben-Simon]

[Excerpts] The disagreement on Arens' message continues to inflame the continuing argument between Peres' and Arens' offices. Peres' aides are saying that the message merely caused damage and delayed the replies of Egypt and the PLO. [passage omitted]

It will be remembered that about 2 weeks ago Minister Arens dispatched cables to various European foreign ministers, detailing the recent Inner Cabinet resolution, including the assurances accompanying it. Because of the many conditions it enumerated, and because of the implied harsh tone, the letters caused considerable irritation in Peres' office. [passage omitted]

A meticulous perusal of the Arens' message reveals a formulation almost identical to the Inner Cabinet resolution. However, the tone of the message is much tougher, and the conditions it poses are clearer than formulated by the Inner Cabinet. Here are a few examples: The Inner Cabinet resolution stating that "Israel will not negotiate with the PLO" is given a sterner interpretation in Arens' letter: "The Government of Israel clearly and unequivocally objects to negotiations

with the PLO.... Either indirect or direct negotiations with the PLO will ruin and undermine any possibility of free elections."

The Inner Cabinet resolution states that "the substantive issue in the dialogue will be election modalities." Arens writes: "...Therefore, an agreement over the election modalities must be the only goal of the dialogue." From the outset, the Alignment had insisted on the term "substantive," which would allow the inclusion of non-substantive issues in the agenda. [passage omitted]

U.S. Considers Guarantees, 'Promises' to PLO

TA2311201089 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 23 Nov 89

[Report by political correspondent Yig'al Goren]

[Text] Quietly, and almost without publication, behind-the-scenes continual contacts are being held between the United States, Egypt, and the PLO, with the aim of reaching a PLO agreement to the Baker initiative.

Israel has already accepted the Baker initiative and asked for a series of guarantees. The United States, so we have learned, will probably comply with two of them. First, Israel will not be obliged to participate in negotiations with elements that are unacceptable to it. Second, the United States will support Israel's approach that the key, though not the exclusive, issue in the talks with the Palestinians will be that of elections in the territories.

The United States is currently concentrating most of its efforts on consolidating promises to the PLO, in the wake of the strong opposition which PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat is facing. The promises worked out by the United States are as follows:

The Palestinian delegation will include eight representatives from the territories and two from outside the territories. The possibility under examination now concerns how many deportees will be allowed to return to the territories on the eve of the elections, so that two of them will be incorporated in the delegation. The delegation will be composed—and pay attention to this formulation please—by the main and influential political force in the Palestinian movement. The meaning of this definition is that it will be the PLO which will forms the delegation, provided that it does not declare this fact publicly. As for the agenda, the major topic will be that of elections in the territories, although each side will be able to present all its positions in the opening speeches.

These formulations, so the United States estimates, will enable the PLO to respond in the affirmative to the Baker initiative and will prevent Israel from rejecting the U.S. proposals. Among other things, it was agreed that the United States would announce that it is committed to the Shultz declaration, dated September 1988, the main points of which are as follows: the principle of territories in return for peace and recognizing the legitimate and political rights of the Palestinian people.

This whole thing sounds complicated indeed, but the objective is clear: an attempt to bridge the constraints which Shamir has within Israel and which Yasir 'Arafat has within the PLO, so that the sides can be brought to the negotiation table without calling a spade a spade. If the United States and Egypt, with the help of the Soviet Union, manage to convince the PLO, the latter's positive response is expected in the coming days already. If this is the case indeed, the United States will shortly summon the foreign ministers of Israel and Egypt for the first practical discussion about elections in the territories.

'Confrontation' Over U.S. Assurances Foreseen

TA2411084789 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 24 Nov 89 pp 1, 13

[Report by diplomatic correspondent Menahem Shalev]

[Excerpts] The U.S. is reportedly set to provide Egypt and the PLO with public assurances concerning the Israeli-Palestinian dialogue which are certain to create an immediate and grave crisis with the Likud, well-placed sources said last night.

The sources said that the U.S. assurances include support for the inclusion of Palestinians from outside the territories in the Palestinian negotiating team; qualified support for a "properly structured" international conference; support for the peace-for-territories formula and support for a virtually open agenda in the proposed dialogue.

Likud sources said last night that the report, if true, would probably lead to a confrontation with Washington, and to a serious government crisis.

Diplomatic sources told THE JERUSALEM POST last night that "the contents of the report concerning U.S. assurances contradict the information given to Israel by the administration in recent days." [passage omitted]

Likud sources said that while the reported assurances did not deviate from previous U.S. policy statements made at various times and places in the past, their compilation in one document or statement, in the context of assurances to Egypt and the PLO, could "prove deadly" as far as Shamir is concerned. [passage omitted]

Former Liberals To Join Likud Central Committee

TA2411084889 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 24 Nov 89 p 18

[Report by Dan Petreanu]

[Text] Six hundred former Liberals will be added to the Likud Central Committee before its next meeting, which is likely to be held in the coming month, highly placed sources in the party told THE JERUSALEM POST last night.

These new members will participate, and possibly play a crucial role, in what is expected by many in the party to

be a decisive confrontation between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and his Likud rivals.

'Partial' Histadrut Election Results Published

TA2311163889

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1600 GMT on 23 November reports that "the Histadrut's central election committee and Secretary Yisra'el Qeysar called a news conference this afternoon to report on the final election results. However, at the last minute they were forced to publish only partial and unofficial results because the United Workers Party, MAPAM, and the Likud contended that no official ballot should be published as long as the contentious boxes have not been checked following claims of irregularities."

Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 23 November reports that "the official, partial, and broadest possible Histadrut election results that are available to date" were published today, reflecting 98.3 percent of the returns, "which have nevertheless not yet been approved by the central election committee." Committee Chairman Jacques Amir nevertheless decided that 10 days after the election date, the time has come to publish whatever data is available as official. The breakdown, "minus the count of 55 ballot boxes" is: "Labor Party—55 percent; Likud—27.5 percent; MAPAM—9 percent; United List—4.5 percent; and Citizens Rights Movement—4 percent." In the results for the NA'AMAT Alignment-affiliated women's labor federation, the Labor Party scored "nearly" 59 percent, and the Likud 23.5 percent.

USSR's Galitsin Discusses PLO, Syrian Ties

TA2311153489 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 23 Nov 89 p 7

[Report on interview with Dr Aleksandr Galitsin, "the person in charge of the Regional Disputes Department, who is stationed at the USSR Embassy in London"—title as published—by Yoram Peri; in London "several days ago"]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Dr Aleksandr Galitsin, who is a close friend of Gennadiy Tarasov, is a representative of the young cadres of foreign policymakers in Moscow. [passage omitted]

Referring to relations with Israel, Dr Galitsin said: "For many years, Israel's image was distorted in the Soviet Union. This was part of our ideological war against you, and consequently anything you did was painted black. A new generation has meanwhile emerged in Soviet politics and diplomacy and it has a different view of things. We are currently rewriting our history, and in that framework we get a more balanced picture of Israel."

Concerning the PLO, he said: "The PLO is the authorized representative of the Palestinians. That is why you have to negotiate with it. By this I do not mean that everything the PLO has ever done is positive, or that all of your deeds are negative. One of our gravest mistakes was when Andropov told 'Arafat, when they met in 1983, not to accept UN Resolution 242. His reason was that such a recognition could serve the PLO as a bargaining chip. This was a mistake on our part, and we regret this advice was ever given.... Despite the criticism you might have of the PLO, you should remember that it is interested in a political solution. If we lose 'Arafat, there is a chance that the whole process would stop for 10 years or even more.

"In the framework of our new thinking, we have made great changes in our conditions for recognizing Israel. This is because we want to be in a situation that would enable us to converse with both sides to the dispute. In the past we conditioned the renewal of diplomatic ties with Israel on a full Israeli withdrawal from the territories. After that we said that we will recognize you if an international conference is convened, and that we will do it at the opening ceremony. Today, even though we still support such a conference, we are willing to renew ties with you even sooner—the minute a high-level meeting between an Israeli and a PLO representative is held."

Concerning relations with Syria, Dr Galitsin said: "For some time now, we have maintained that the Syrians are holding an anachronistic position concerning the dispute. That is why we explained very clearly that they must revise their aspiration of obtaining "strategic parity' and instead embark on the political path. We, for our part, are changing our weapons sales policy. We told Damascus very plainly that it must maintain contacts with Israel through us, whether these are direct or indirect contacts. In our latest meetings, we got the impression that the Syrians comprehend the change and are showing greater readiness than ever before to attempt some political process, for example in the form of an international conference. We have found them more responsive than previously to the possibility of a political settlement in exchange for Israeli concessions on the Golan Heights."

As for Zionism, "our support for the UN resolution equating Zionism with racism was unnecessary and should be revoked. We supported that resolution because it was raised at the United Nations at a time of ideological clashes between us. This is a style suitable to the era of the cold war. During that time we called the PLO a national liberation movement and Israel an aggressive occupier. The truth is that these are two national movements with equally valid motives. If we recognize a country that gathers in Jews from all corners of the globe, we must also recognize the ideological movement that forms its basis. Naturally the Israelis have justifiable security interests, which must be manifested in the political settlement. We must dispense with the ideological conflicts in bilateral relations just as they should be done away with in personal ties." [passage omitted]

Aerflot Opens 'Regular Commercial' Air Links

TA2311182989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 23 Nov 89

[Text] A Soviet passenger airline of the national carrier Aeroflot arrived at Ben-Gurion International Airport about an hour ago, inaugurating regular commercial civilian flights between Moscow and Israel. This follows the recent agreement concluded in the Soviet capital between Israel's national airline, El Al, and Aeroflot.

The Soviet plane this evening brought a number of leading Russian chess masters to Israel to participate in the current European round of championship games being played in Haifa.

Polish Minister Sees Full Diplomatic Ties Soon

TA2411055989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 24 Nov 89

[Report by Ze'ev Kohen]

[Text] The slow process of restoring diplomatic relations between Israel and East European countries was given a boost last night when Polish Foreign Minister Krzysztof Skubiszewski called Moshe Arens, his Israeli counterpart, and told him: The Polish Government has decided to restore full diplomatic relations with Israel soon.

The two conferred last month in New york. The Polish foreign minister then told Arens that for all intents and purposes, Warsaw considers Mordekhay Paltzur, the Israeli representative, an ambassador. In their latest talk, they agreed on a series of accords to be signed between the two countries to expand the existing aviation agreement, agricultural cooperation, insurance covering investments, agreement against double taxation, and exchange of cultural and science accords. The Polish foreign minister said his country plans to restore and strengthen the Jewish heritage by restoring Jewish sites.

In a special debate 2 weeks ago, the Polish Sejm called on the government to restore full diplomatic relations with Israel.

Senior political sources in Jerusalem believe that other East European countries, including Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, and the SFRY, will improve relations with Israel. The direct flights between Moscow and Tel Aviv are also evidence of a change in the Kremlin and progress in the normalization process between the two countries.

Israel has set as a strategic goal the improvement of relations with additional countries and has decided to exert great efforts to open additional legations in Asian and African countries.

Diplomats' Families To Evacuate El Salvador

TA2211122289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 22 Nov 89

[Excerpt] The families of Israeli diplomats will be evacuated from San Salvador. This amounts to four families. A Foreign Ministry official told reporter Jack Katzenell that the embassy staff will remain. The decision was taken in the wake of a rebel takeover of a San Salvador hotel, in which Westerners and six Israelis were briefly held as hostages. The Israelis were employees of Tahal, Israel's water engineering company. The chairman of Tahal, Avigdor Ben-Gal, told reporter Alan Ben-'Ami that the company will continue its activities in El Salvador. [passage omitted]

Reservists Training Salvadoran 'Armed Groups'

TA2211202389 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 22 Nov 89

[Text] Israeli army reservists have been involved in the training of and the provision of security services to individuals and institutions in El Salvador. The involvement of Israelis has been augmented in the wake of the civil war. Our correspondent Hanan 'Azran adds that Israeli antiterror warfare experts established private companies and, at different periods, trained Salvadoran armed groups for several years duration.

One of these companies, ISDS [International Security and Defense Systems], maintained permanent offices at the San Salvador Sheraton Hotel, where army and rebel forces battled yesterday. Our correspondent reports that the company's Israeli director, Leo Glaser, together with another Israeli, Ya'aqov Pauster, provided military training services to official Salvadoran bodies. The company claims that it has not been active in El Salvador in over 1 year.

Our correspondent notes that ISDS conducted antiterror warfare training with the approval of the Defense Ministry.

'Strategic Understanding' With Iraq Sought

TA2311122189 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 23 Nov 89 p 1

[Report by political correspondent Daniyel Ben-Simon]

[Text] "Israel's aim for the next few years is to reach a strategic understanding with Iraq," said a senior Foreign Ministry official at a briefing for political reporters held in Jerusalem yesterday.

The senior official added that Israel has no border disputes with Iraq, and that the existing problems can be solved. "If we attain this goal, our strategic situation would change drastically," he said.

The senior official noted that one of Israel's major tasks is to establish the peace process. "It is a difficult process

but it exists, and ever since the wall of Arab hostility was broken through in 1977, there has been no turning back."

The senior official added that Israel is trying to isolate the Israeli-Palestinian conflict from the rest of the problems in the region. Israel does not view the PLO as an acceptable partner, the official said. He conceded that the organization has been maintaining contacts with the United States and has been coordinating positions with Egypt. "Had the Palestinians accepted Israel's offer to hold elections in the territories, their situation today would have been far better," the senior official said.

Referring to Iran, the senior official said that Israel is expecting to renew contacts with it in the next few years. As far as Syria is concerned, he said, he sees no change in relations taking place as long as Al-Asad remains in power there.

Paratroopers' Brigade Concludes Exercise

TA2211174089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 22 Nov 89

[Text] The paratroopers' brigade today completed an exercise which lasted several days. Our military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that APC's [armored personnel carriers], tanks, artillery, and Air Force battle and assault helicopters participated in the exercise.

Central Command Commander Yitzhaq Mordekhay commended the commanders' and soldiers' professional performance in the exercise. He said that despite the disrupted training caused by current security constraints, the brigade demonstrated an excellent standard of performance.

Defense Expenditures, Tax Collection Reported

TA2211171389 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 22 Nov 89 p 5

[Excerpt] Here is a selection of various economic data included in the new statistical yearbook:

—A drop in the government's defense expenditures: In 1988 the government's defense expenditures (including wages, local purchases, and military imports) dropped to 17 percent of the GNP, compared to 20 percent in 1987 and 16 percent in 1986. In the years 1984 to 1985, defense expenditures accounted for 22 percent of the GNP. This development was caused by sharp fluctuations in the volume of military imports, which dropped 17 percent in 1988 after it had almost doubled in 1987 over 1986.

Local military purchases stabilized in the years 1986 to 1988 on 11 percent of the GNP, compared with an average 14 percent in the years 1980 to 1985.

For the sake of comparison it should be noted that the national expenditure on education amounted to 9 percent of the GNP in the last 3 years, while the national expenditure on health totaled 7 to 8 percent of the GNP.

—Taxes in Israel: Government revenues from the collection of direct and indirect taxes amounted to 45 percent of the disposable national income in the years 1986 to 1988, compared with 42 percent in the years 1981 to 1984. [passage omitted]

Survey Shows 487,000 Live Below 'Poverty Line'

TA2211124389 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 22 Nov p 1

[Report by labor correspondent Jeff Black]

[Text] Nearly half a million Israelis—including some 223,000 children—were living below the poverty line last year.

This figure would have been twice as high were it not for National Insurance Institute [NII] allowances, the NII reported yesterday in its Annual Survey for 1988.

Mordekhay Tzippori, director-general of the NII, stressed that while life below the poverty line did not mean 487,939 people were without food, conditions at the lower end of the economic scale were very hard. He said life was particularly tough for those people who relied on NII benefits as their sole source of income.

The poverty line in August 1988 stood at a monthly income of NIS [New Israeli Shekels] 780 for a couple and NIS 1,235 for a couple with two children.

Tzippori noted that before NII allowances were taken into account, some 296,289 families (32.6 percent of all families in the country) lived below this line last year. The figure fell to 130,305 families (14.3 percent of all families) once the allowances were included in the calculation.

The figures represented a rise from 1987, when 124,710 families (13.8 percent of all families) lived below the poverty line.

NII officials said they expected this year's increased level of unemployment and higher inflation rate to increase the income gap in the country, despite the relative stability seen in most economic spheres for 1989.

Amnesty's Denunciation of Killings Criticized

TA2311105489 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 23 Nov 89 p 12

[Report by David Horowitz]

[Text] Israeli officials have criticized Amnesty International for "failing to name names" when condemning the killing of Arab "collaborators" by clandestine Palestinian assassination units.

The officials, who declined to be identified but are well-acquainted with Amnesty's dealings with Israel, welcomed as "a small, if belated, step in the right direction" last weekend's denunciation by Amnesty of Palestinian leaders who have endorsed the killings.

However, they asked, why did Amnesty not specify that the PLO and HAMAS [Islamic Resistance Movement] bore specific responsibility for such murders? "There is overwhelming evidence that the PLO and HAMAS have ordered killings and issued death threats," they said.

It was ironic, they added, that Amnesty was now calling on Israel to bring the assassins to justice, while in the past it had condemned as excessive virtually every Israeli legal and administrative measure used to maintain order and safety in the territories.

Amnesty insisted yesterday that its statement on the killing of "collaborators" did not represent a change in policy.

Jewish 'Terrorist' Group Plants Explosives

TA2411070789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 24 Nov 89

[Text] The terrorist organization calling itself the Sicarii planted explosives—gunpowder, compressed gas for drinking soda, and memorial candles—at the front doors of the homes of two Hebrew University professors.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the explosives were placed near the home of Prof Yoram Ben-Porat, Hebrew University rector, probably because he permitted Faysal al-Husayni to address students at the university, and at the home of Prof Dov Shim'on, probably because he participated in the operation in which a soldier's heart was transplanted in the body of an Arab resident of East Jerusalem. Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that the police are investigating the incidents.

Reportage on Shamir's Visit to France

For French and Israeli reportage on the visit by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to France, including reports on his talks with President Francois Mitterrand, please see the France section of the 22 November West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

'Deep Regret' Expressed Over Mu'awwad's Death

JN2211211089 Amman Television Service in English 2000 GMT 22 Nov 89

[Text] The Government of Jordan expressed deep regret over the assassination of the Lebanese president. An official spokesman told the JORDAN NEWS AGENCY that the crime constitutes a shocking tragedy for Lebanon and the Arab world. The spokesman said Jordan considers this treacherous act as being aimed at Lebanon's sovereignty and stability, and representing an attempt to foil efforts to end the suffering of the Lebanese people. He called on Lebanon's leaders and factions to show maximum cohesion to abort evil plots against their country and to avoid missing what might be the last chance to resolve the Lebanese crisis. He stressed the need for not allowing the crime to undermine Arab efforts to solve the Lebanese problem.

Prime Minister Sharif Zayd Ibn-Shakir later said in a statement that President Mu'awwad's assassination was a setback to the security, stability, and progress expected in Lebanon after the al-Ta'if accord. He said Jordan felt profound sorrow over the murder and hopes that the brotherly people of Lebanon will eventually escape this predicament and work for the reconstruction of their country and the restoration of stability.

King Extends Condolences

JN2311151089 Amman Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 23 Nov 89

[Text] His majesty the king today sent a cable of condolences to the Lebanese parliament speaker in which he expressed his profound sorrow over the loss of the Lebanese President Rene Mu'awwad. His majesty condemned the murder of President Mu'awwad as a coward act aimed at Lebanon's existence and unity.

King Receives Daniel Ortega Adviser, Message

JN2311170089 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1445 GMT 23 Nov 89

[Text] Amman, 23 Nov (PETRA)—At the Hashemite Royal Court at noon today, His Majesty King Husayn received Mr George Hallaq, personal adviser of Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega. Hallaq conveyed to his majesty a written message from the Nicaraguan president containing greetings and appreciation from the people and leaders of the Republic of Nicaragua for his majesty and for Jordan, as well as the emphatic interest of the Nicaraguan people and leaders in developing and promoting relations and ties between the two countries within the framework of the Nonaligned Movement.

Likewise, the message explains the internal conditions in Nicaragua and their international dimensions. It also explains the government's policy and determination to conduct parliamentary elections with the participation of observers from various regional and international organizations. The message says these elections will prove to be a practical expression of the Nicaraguan Government's affirmation of the democratic trend in the country, the end to internal conflict, the realization of national unity, and the directing of people's capabilities toward building and development.

King Receives PDRY President's Phone Call

JN2411064689 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 24 Nov 89

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received a telephone call last night from His Excellency President Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY]. His excellency expressed his appreciation and admiration for the steps Jordan is taking to create a pioneering democratic experience that would reflect positively on all citizens.

The two leaders exchanged views on a number of current Arab and international issues, efforts to unite Arab ranks, and the current attempt to find a formula uniting the two parts of Yemen. During the call, his excellency renewed the invitation to His Majesty King Husayn to visit PDRY. His majesty thanked the president for his kind invitation and promised to take it up as soon as possible.

King Appoints Senate Members With Royal Decree

JN2211190489 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Nov 89

[Text] The following royal decree has been issued: We, Husayn I, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, in accordance with Paragraph 4 of Article 34 of the Constitution, decree the following: The Senate shall be dissolved as of 23 November 1989.

The following royal decree also has been issued:

We, Husayn I, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, in accordance with Article 36 of the Constitution, decree the appointment of the following as Senate members as of 23 November 1989:

1. His Excellency Zayd Ibn-Shakir
2. His Excellency Bahjat al-Talhuni
3. His Excellency Ahmad al-Lawzi
4. His Excellency Ahmad 'Ubaydat
5. His Excellency 'Akif al-Fayiz
6. His Excellency Bashir al-Sabbagh
7. His Excellency Dr Subhi Amin 'Amr
8. His Excellency Dr Khalil al-Salim
9. His Excellency Akram Zu'aytir
10. His Excellency Habis al-Majali
11. His Excellency 'Amir Khammash
12. His Excellency Muhammad Rasul al-Kilani
13. His Excellency Ja'far al-Shami
14. His Excellency 'Umar al-Nabulsi
15. His Excellency Dr Ishaq al-Farhan
16. His Excellency Salim Masa'idah
17. His Excellency Kamil al-Sharif
18. His Excellency Marwan al-Qasim

19. His Excellency Dr Sa'id al-Tall
20. Her Excellency Layla Sharaf
21. His Excellency Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din
22. His Excellency Muhammad 'Awdah al-Qur'an
23. His Excellency Jum'ah Hammad
24. His Excellency Barjis al-Hadid
25. His Excellency Muhammad Kamal
26. His Excellency Muhammad 'Ali Budayr
27. His Excellency Hamad al-Farhan
28. His Excellency Nawwaf Sa'ud al-Qadi
29. His Excellency Najib al-Rashdan
30. His Excellency 'Ali Abu-Nuwwar
31. His Excellency Nadhir Rashid
32. His Excellency Khalid al-Tarawinah
33. His Excellency Tariq 'Ala'-al-Din
34. His Excellency Dr Dawud Hananiya
35. His Excellency Dr Kamal al-Sha'ir
36. His Excellency Amin Shuqayr
37. His Excellency Husni 'Ayish
38. His Excellency Khalaf Abu-Nuwayyir
39. His Excellency Ahmad Sa'ud al-'Adwan
40. His Excellency Ibrahim Taqiy-al-Din

The following royal decree has also been issued:

We, Husayn I, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, in accordance with Article 36 of the Constitution, decree the following: His Excellency Ahmad al-Lawzi shall be appointed a president of the Senate as of 23 November 1989.

14 New Deputies Form 'Democratic Bloc'

JN2311114889 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 23 Nov 89 p 1

[Report by Nirmin Murad]

[Text] Amman—A coalition of 14 newly-elected Parliament members has been formally named the "Democratic Bloc" crowning a series of talks aimed at consolidating efforts and decisions based on common ideologies, according to newly elected press spokesman of the bloc, Deputy-elect Fakhri Qa'war.

The members of the bloc, according to Fakhri Qa'war, include deputies-elect 'Isa Madanat, Mansur Sayf-al-Din Murad, Muhammad Faris al-Tarawinah, Awni al-Bashir, Ibrahim al-Shababishah, Bassam Haddadin, Husni al-Shayyab, Salim al-Zu'bi, Dhib Marji, 'Abd-al-Karim al-Dughmi, 'Abd-al-Salam Farayhat, Faris al-Nabulsi and Qa'war as well as Husayn Mujalli. The decision to form this bloc was reached Tuesday [21 November] night at the end of a meeting held at Mujalli's home.

The bloc discussed "the common denominators which could serve as a minimum level of agreement among the bloc's members," Qa'war told the JORDAN TIMES. He said these common denominators "were enough to consider the attendants members of a distinct parliamentary bloc."

The bloc also assigned several of its members to "contact candidates for the speakership of the Lower House of Parliament to become acqainted with their programmes and the possibility of reaching common grounds with any one of them," Qa'war said.

The bloc has not yet made a decision on whom it will support in the race for speakership, and Qa'war did not rule out the possibility of nominating a candidate from the bloc's members. "Until now we do not have a representative candidate from within the bloc and we have not decided to support any of the running candidates either," Qa'war said.

Sources close to the bloc, however, maintained that Mujalli has expressed interest in running for the speakership office but has not been able to secure the support of the bloc. Qa'war declined making direct comment on Mujalli's nomination maintaining that "there are several things to consider in this race and this is one of them."

In a new development Wednesday, Dhuqan al-Hindawi, until now strongly rumoured to be in the race for the speakership, denied these reports and said: "I will not participate in this war for speakership because I am not personally convinced with the idea."

He confirmed that his possible nomination was discussed among himself and other Parliament members but maintained that he was "never a candidate for this position."

Al-Hindawi said he would support the "candidate of the majority and of an organised grouping and since the Muslim Brotherhood seems to enjoy the majority of votes so far I personally support this in principle." But he stressed that this decision "does not at all mean that I will support the demands of the Islamic movement in Parliament."

He said he would work within the public interest and the constitution. "I am the independent candidate of the people and will continue to work within this frame," Al-Hindawi said.

Sulayman 'Arar said that he was still in the race for the speakership office and said contacts with other parliamentarians indicate that his "chances of winning are excellent."

'Arar declined giving an exact number of votes he had secured but said that the number of parliamentarians who have promised him their votes "would ensure my success from the first round."

But he pointed out that "one cannot be totally sure because people say something and no one knows whether they will stick to it or not."

Also running for the speakership office are Layth Shubaylat, who has just returned from Omra [minor pilgrimage to Mecca], and Dr. Yusuf al-Mubayyidin, the declared candidate of the Muslim Brotherhood. Neither was available for comment Wednesday.

Islamic Deputy Discusses Brotherhood, Shari'a

JN2211165089 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 22 Nov 89 p 2

[Interview with Deputy Shaykh Ya'qub Qirrish by Sa'd al-Silawi; date and place not given]

[Text] During his election campaign, Deputy Shaykh Ya'qub Qirrish did not present the slogan: Islam Is the Solution. However, he presented a slogan which all sectors of people believe in—that is, national unity is the solution because the majority of the citizens agree on certain issues. And Islam comes to consolidate this unity as a religion of the Muslims and a civilization for non-Muslims. Deputy Shaykh Ya'qub Qirrish was born in Jerusalem in 1952, obtained a secondary certificate, and then worked in trade and construction.

SAWT AL-SHA'B conducted the following interview with Deputy Ya'qub Qirrish:

[Al-Silawi] We are approaching the election of the House of Representatives speaker and the formation of the House committees. What are the qualities necessary for the job of speaker in Deputy Qirrish's opinion, and is it necessary that the speaker be from the religious trend?

[Qirrish] I believe that the most important quality of the coming speaker is his abidance by clear Islamic stands. At the same time, the speaker should be accepted by the rest of the influential forces in the House of Representatives. The speaker should make a progressive, civilized proposal, have a clean history, be known for his rise above personal interests, and guide the House toward general interests only.

[Al-Silawi] What will your major demands be in the upcoming House session?

[Qirrish] Our first demand will be based on activating the Constitution articles, returning real power to the people, allowing them to participate in running the country, regaining the prestige of this power within the Constitution, restoring daily popular participation through the release of general liberties, and then discussing the economic crisis.

Asking the people to participate in resolving these crises without guaranteeing their constitutional rights and liberties or guaranteeing their participation in running the country is considered an injustice. Consequently, the people will not shoulder their responsibilities because they do not have their rights.

[Al-Silawi] Do you support the establishment of parties and political organizations, and what is your opinion on the national charter?

[Qirrish] I support the Constitution—the 1952 Constitution—with its main articles, and withhold support for some amendments to the Constitution. There is a need to review these amendments because circumstances have changed. This means I support general popular rights, including the right to the expression of opinion, absolute free press, free access by the foreign press, and giving true information on internal and external affairs. There is no need to monitor this information from foreign press and radios. This also means the freedom of founding parties and effective participation, while abiding by the Constitution.

I support the national charter if all its articles are in agreement with the Constitution. But, if some of its articles—even if they are few—are contrary to the Constitution, we will then adopt a rejectionist stand. We believe that the matter must be explained to the people if there is an intention to amend the Constitution or to bypass it in the name of the national charter or anything else. The Parliament must safeguard the trust.

[Al-Silawi] Do you approve of the participation of deputies in the government?

[Qirrish] I believe that the deputies should not participate in the next government. I discussed this issue in depth with my brothers the deputies. My stand was clear: the nonparticipation of any deputy, especially a committed Muslim deputy. However, we will respect the viewpoint of the opposition and cooperate with the coming government if this government is formed in line with the hopes and aspirations of our people, while at the same time as not falling into the same traps as the former governments.

[Al-Silawi] It is known that you belong to the Koran Institute. Is the Koran Institute a political party or what?

[Qirrish] The Koran Institute is a center for teaching and explaining the Koran, Islamic jurisprudence, and mysticism. It is not based on interference in politics and parties but on spiritual, moral, and scientific education. I believe that the majority of the honest and good believers in God, including the martyr Imam Hasan al-Banna, have had their education and learning within such educational institutions. This clearly means that the Koran Institute has never been and will never be a political party. My relationship to the Koran Institute is that of a university student who graduates from a university and does not have an official relationship with that university, but with its professors and those responsible for it. It gains his appreciation and respect.

[Al-Silawi] What is the nature of your relationship with the Muslim Brotherhood? What are the points you agree and disagree on?

[Qirrish] My relationship to the Muslim Brotherhood is that of a Muslim to his brothers, which is based on friendship, love, and frankness where there is a need for it. I believe that the points of agreement are many. It is enough that we work hard to revive the teachings and instructions of Imam Hasan al-Banna, God bless his soul, whom we consider to have reached the crux of comprehensive Islamic views.

As for the points of disagreement, they are restricted to matters of form and style and do not concern the common goal, which is salvation on the Day of Judgment. We believe that these formal disagreements concern only the issues of effectively and permanently accounting for all the members and leaderships within the organization and injecting new and youthful blood into the leadership, while retaining the spirit of the call. The organization should open up to all Islamic proposals. In Islam, parties are different from the way other people see them. The Islamic party does not distinguish between one Muslim and another, even if one of them is in the party, because the important thing is who is the more qualified and pious person, and not whether he is linked to the party.

[Al-Silawi] Do you belong to the Muslim Brotherhood, and have you previously belonged to any Islamic party?

[Qirrish] I have not had the honor of belonging to any Islamic political group. However, I believe that there is goodness among the youth and men of the Islamic organizations.

[Al-Silawi] What is your opinion of the disengagement decision?

[Qirrish] Despite the fact that the disengagement decision had its painful effect on the hearts of the faithful who believe in the unity of the Arab peoples, particularly in the pioneering unity binding the Jordanian people to the Palestinian people, the sincere intention to highlight the Palestinian political identity and underscore the struggle to regain Palestinian rights on the entire Palestinian soil alleviates our pain. I believe that we have to work to cancel all the measures that followed the disengagement decision. We also have to return to a form of unity after the establishment of the Palestinian state, as the ties binding Jordan to Palestine are special and unique.

[Al-Silawi] Will you call for applying Islamic shari'a?

[Qirrish] I believe that calling for the application of Islamic shari'a is a duty. I also believe that we must also secure two things. First, the people's practice and application of Islamic shari'a must be upgraded and promoted to make it compatible with the Islamic fervor embedded within their bosoms. I believe that Muslims have Islamic sentiments and objectives. They also have an Islamic orientation. However, I believe that their actions, deeds, and willingness to accept Islamic laws do not run parallel to this fervor. Consequently, if we launch the application of shari'a laws without the proper preparations, there might be a severe and cruel reaction affecting all of us. Second, there is mistrust between Arab and Islamic governments on the one hand and those calling for the application of shari'a laws on the other. Therefore, the application by Muslims of Islamic laws must be promoted and the mistrust, suspicion, and wariness being felt by officials about this must be removed. Once this is achieved, the call for the application of shari'a laws will not be the demand of only one deputy, one group, or mosque imams and ulema. No, the call for the application of shari'a laws will then become a popular demand. The election of Islamic deputies does not necessarily mean that the people are ready for the application of shari'a laws. Besides, it does not mean that the people are capable of shouldering the responsibilities entailed. No, the election of Islamic deputies means that the people have tested figures representing all other currents and that they have had no choice left but to trust the pious and religious men. This is one thing, and willingness for the application of shari'a laws is something else.

[Al-Silawi] You have not said that Islam is the solution. No, you upheld the slogan: National Unity Is the Solution. How do you envisage it to be the solution? And why did you uphold that slogan?

[Qirrish] My efforts to serve Islam began in 1975. My efforts continued until I was arrested in Palestine. These efforts were based on viewing all Muslims as equals. I did not differentiate among Muslims. I viewed all Muslims in Palestine as equals, believing that all of them have the same pains and aspirations. Hence, I put all of my weight behind my meetings with others who supported the Islamic orientation, and also behind support for unified national action everywhere.

Paper Publishes 1990 Draft State Budget Figures

JN2111134489 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 21 Nov 89 p 1

[Text] Amman, SAWT AL-SHA'B—SAWT AL-SHA'B has learned that the government has finalized the draft state general budget bill for the year 1990 and that this budget will total approximately 1.2 billion Jordanian dinars.

SAWT AL-SHA'B also has learned that the main outlines of the state budget bill provide for limited allocations for development projects and also for a decrease in public spending. Allocations for recurrent expenditure and servicing public debt are earmarked and spelled out in the draft state budget bill. The budget also reflects projected Arab and non-Arab aid.

Moreover, the paper also learned that the projected deficit this year will be close to that for fiscal year 1988. In other words, this year's deficit will be approximately JD 120 million. It is to be recalled that last year's budget amounted to JD 1.035 billion, while the budget deficit for the same year totaled JD 122,231,000.

Implications of Shamir's U.S. Remarks Assessed

JN1911130589 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 19 Nov 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Shamir Says it All"]

[Text] Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's visit to the U.S. was the latest occasion for Tel Aviv to confirm once again three cardinal principles of its policies: Israel

will never withdraw from the occupied territories; the peace process has a long way to go; and the essence of the Middle East conflict is the continued state of war between Israel and the neighbouring Arab countries. There is nothing really new in these revelations as all informed observers have long suspected that the assertions made by Shamir in the U.S. reflect faithfully and accurately the inner thoughts of the Israeli establishment. What is striking about them is that they were made in the U.S. itself and followed Shamir's talks with U.S. President George Bush. The implications therefore are ominous, the least of which is that even Bush himself was unable to change Shamir's strategy towards the Palestinian conflict.

As for Shamir's assertions that his government has no intention whatsoever of ever withdrawing from the West Bank and Gaza Strip, informed Arabs have long believed that this is the truest Israeli position. After more than two decades of initiatives and efforts to get Israel to withdraw from the Arab territories it occupied in the 1967 war, Arabs of all walks of life have become convinced that there is no peaceful way left to achieve the liberation of those territories. It has got to the point where one has to be very naive to ever think that that is still probable.

And that the stalled peace process has a long way to go, as Shamir assured his audiences in the U.S., fits in perfectly well with his long established tactics to delay and procrastinate the search for peace for as long as humanly possible. In fact Shamir said so in so many words on many occasions, and this latest confirmation of the obvious comes only as an added evidence that he has only one thing on his mind and that is to kill the quest for a reasonable settlement of the Palestinian conflict by foot-dragging it till the bitter end.

Shamir's diagnosis that the heart of the matter in the Middle East is the continuation of the state of war between Israel and the neighbouring Arab countries also fits in perfectly well with his rejection of the Palestinian party as a primary interlocutor in the peace process, which in turn explains his total rejection of the PLO as a necessary party in any meaningful negotiations leading to the reslution of the Palestinian case. What is beyond comprehension is Shamir's total blindness to the fact that Arab countries' involvement in wars with Israel throughout the past four decades were in the first place due to the denial of the Palestinian rights and usurpation of their territories. Now Shamir seeks to pretend that the cart comes before the horse and that the settlement of the Middle East conflicts must proceed backward starting with the Arab countries rather than forward through the primary party in the Arab-Israeli conflicts, namely the Palestinians. How can Washington succeed in putting some sense in Shamir's lopsided logic is uppermost on the mind of the internatinal community, which has concluded a long time ago that the essence of the broader Arab-Israeli conflict is the Palestinian conflict which must be addressed and resolved in the most direct manner through direct negotiations with the Palestinian people themselves.

No, Mr. Shamir, the Arab governments got involved in armed conflicts with your country because of the Palestinian case. Otherwise they had no immediate conflict with Israel. So, if Tel Aviv wants peace with the Arab capitals, it must do so through the resolution of the Palestinian case by negotiating with the Palestinian side. Then, and only then could Israel sue for peace with the Arab countries. And the sooner Israel stops its foot-dragging in dealing with the Palestinians the sooner it can settle its conflicts with the Arab countries as a whole. But this is getting to be rather academic. With the Israeli assurances that it will never leave the West Bank and Gaza Strip one wonders why time and energy are still being invested in the pursuit of a peaceful resolution of the Palestinian case.

Elections Scheduled To Name New President

Arab League Official Comments

NC2211193989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 22 Nov 89

[Text] Clovis Maqsud, Arab League representative to the United Nations, said the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies might meet within the next 24 to 48 hours to elect a new president of the Republic. In a brief news conference he held at the UN headquarters, Maqsud said that the speaker of the Chamber of Deputies and the prime-minister designate have agreed to hold a parliamentary session as soon as possible so that the deputies can elect a new president.

Maqsud added: Mu'awwad's assassination has painfully hindered the peace process.

He hopes that no premature accusations will be leveled before the perpetrators are known, so that the ongoing reconciliation process will not be halted.

The Arab League representative to the United Nations said that he believes that excedpt for some resistance pockets within Lebanese political quarters, the al-Ta'if agreement will not be reconsidered.

In conclusion, he said that the Arab League will continue its efforts to attain a national accord.

Date To Be Announced 23 Nov

NC2211233589 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2315 GMT 22 Nov 89

[Text] AFP has cited a source in the office of Husayn al-Husayni, speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, as saying that the date for the election of a president of the Republic will be announced today [23 November]. The source added that President Mu'awwad will be buried on (?Saturday).

Al-Husayni Chairs Meeting

NC2311065089 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0530 GMT 23 Nov 89

[Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni left Beirut for Damascus last night to hold talks with Syrian officials. He will return to Beirut this morning to chair an expanded parliamentary meeting agreed upon during his consultations yesterday.

Al-Husayni chaired a meeting attended by 30 deputies at his home last night. The conferees stressed the need to convene the Chamber of Deputies as soon as possible to elect a new president of the Republic. The deputies called for electing a president to fill the constitutional vacuum as soon as possible.

Election 'Most Likely' 24 Nov

NC2311083089 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 23 Nov 89

[Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni has instructed the Chamber's ranking officials to contact the deputies currently outside Lebanon and ask them to return to Lebanon to guarantee a quorum for holding the election session. Parliamentary sources said it is most likely that the election of a new president will take place tomorrow, Friday; that is, before the funeral of the martyr president.

Deputies Threatened Over Elections

NC2311104589 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1030 GMT 23 Nov 89

[Text] A person claiming to belong to a clandestine Christian organization in Beirut today threatened to kill the Christian deputies and the Maronite patriarch.

In a telephone conversation with AFP, the caller said that he speaks on behalf of the Christian Solidarity Front [jabhat al-tadamun al-masihi]. He added that the Christian deputies will fare no better than Rene Mu'awwad if they take part in the election of a new Lebanese president. He also threatened Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Sfayr if Sfayr does not return to Bkirki within 48 hours.

Patriarch Arrives in Bkirki

NC2311154889 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 23 Nov 89

[Text] Maronite Patriarch Mar Nasrallah Butrus Sfayr arrived at the patriarchate seat in Bkirki at 1600 today. He had spent 18 days at his summer residence in al-Diman following the attack on him on the night of 5-6 November.

Answering a question about his return, Patriarch Sfayr said: What is important is that we have returned. He refused to say anything further, asserting words would do harm and not be useful.

Deputy Jubran Tawq, who has returned from London, arrived in Bkirki at 1640 today.

Session Scheduled for 24 Nov

LD2311161289 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1433 GMT 23 Nov 89

[Excerpts] Beirut, 23 Nov (KUNA)—Parliamentary sources said here today the Lebanese House of Representatives will hold a session tomorrow to elect a successor to late President Rene Mu'awwad, who was assassinated yesterday.

These sources told KUNA today the speaker of the House of Representatives, Mr Husayn al-Husayni, has entrusted the senior house officials to contact the deputies, who are outside Lebanon, and invite them to attend in order to secure the quorum for the election session.

The sources did not exclude the possibility that Al-Qulay'at military airport in the north of Lebanon could be the venue of the session, similar to the session in which the late president was elected on 5 November. [passage omitted]

The sources said the speaker of the parliament after concentrated consultations, which included the deputies, the prime minister designate Dr Salim al-Huss, and Arab leaders, decided the election of the new president should take place tomorrow, Friday, before the funeral of president Mu'awwad next Saturday in the northern mountain town of Zghirta.

The deputies stressed their commitment to Article 74 of the Constitution, which deals with the vacancy of the post of the president, which specifies that "the house is to meet immediately" when the president dies. [Passage omitted]

Election Planned Before Funeral

NC2311174989 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 23 Nov 89

[Text] Intensive consultations have taken place in West Beirut and the north in connection with new elections for a successor to the martyr president. According to parliamentary sources in West Beirut, the parliamentary session for the election is likely to take place at al-Qulay'at Airport in the next few hours, even before the funeral of President Mu'awwad. Other sources expect it to take place on Sunday.

AFP has quoted parliamentary sources in Ba'labakk as saying 39 Lebanese deputies today held a meeting at the Palmera Hotel in Shtawrah. They deputies later left the hotel in two motorcades for unknown destinations, leaving their personal belongings in the hotel. According to some reports, the deputies headed for Zgharta.

Abu-al-Lama' Wants Dialogue

NC2311183389 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 23 Nov 89

[Excerpts] Political meetings and consultations took place today, the majority of which concerned the holding of a new presidential election. According to some leading figures, the date of this election may be set for no later than the beginning of next week.

Answering a question on this issue, Foreign Ministry Secretary General Faruq Abu-al-lama' stated in B'abda Palace: I have no definite information regarding holding such an election as early as you say. In my view we must wait for the appropriate time and conduct a dialogue.

Elections Set for 24 Nov

NC2311201389 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 2000 GMT 23 Nov 89

[Text] It was learned this evening that the Chamber of Deputies will meet at noon tomorrow, Friday [24 November], in Zgharta, to elect a president to succeed the late President Rene Mu'awwad.

It is reported some 40 deputies held meetings in the Palmera Hotel in Ba'labakk and later left for unknown destinations. The chamber staff held contacts with 19 deputies who are abroad and informed them of the need to return to take part in the election of the new president.

Deputy August Bakhus arrived at Beirut Airport this evening.

Election Session Venues Named

NC2411091089 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 24 Nov 89

[Text] The ASSOCIATED PRESS has reported that the majority of Lebanese deputies are prepared to hold a session either at al- Qulay'at Airbase or at the Maronite patriarchate summer headquarters in al-Diman to elect a president to succeed late President Mu'awwad. The agency cites aides to Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni as saying a number of deputies who are currently outside Lebanon will arrive at al-Qulay'at Airbase this afternoon.

More on Deputies Meeting

NC2411135289 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 24 Nov 89

[Text] The Chamber of Deputies is expected to hold a session this afternoon to elect a successor to martyred President Rene Mu'awwad to prevent a presidential vacuum which the isolationists may utilize for their partitionist schemes. It is known that so far 43 deputies and Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni are present in al-Biqa'. They are awaiting the arrival of at least another 10 deputies from abroad aboard a special aircraft at Riyaq Airbase in al-Biqa' to complete the legal quorum and to proceed with the election process. The legal quorum requires the presence of 48 deputies. Parliamentary and media sources have affirmed that a private aircraft left Paris with a number of Lebanese deputies and is due to arrive at Riyaq Airbase this afternoon. AFP reported a short while ago that the deputies who will be arriving from abroad are Nasri al-Ma'luf, 'Uthman al-Dana, Michel Ma'luli, Kazim al-Khalil, Ahmad Isbir, and Michel Sasin. Former Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam will arrive on board a private plane to participate in the presidential elections.

Al-Harawi Favored

NC2411171289 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 24 Nov 89

[Text] It appears that the issue of a successor to the late President Rene Mu'awwad has been resolved. It might not even be a question of hours but a question of an hour or less.

It has been learned that preparations are being made to hold the election session at 2000 tonight at an undisclosed venue. The deputies are currently meeting at the Park Hotel in Shtawrah and the election might be held any moment now, according to the latest reports.

Regarding the persons most favored as possible successors, some reports have said that five names were proposed but withdrawals were made in favor of Deputy Ilyas al-Hirawi, who has now become the most favored candidate. Former President Franjiyah's name continues to be on the list.

Therefore, the Lebanese people may go to sleep tonight with a newly elected president, even before the burial of the late President Rene Mu'awwad.

Al-Hirawi Elected President; To Take Oath 'Shortly'

NC2411175289 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1745 GMT 24 Nov 89

[Text] According to reports from Shtawrah, Deputy Ilyas al-Hirawi has been elected president of the Republic by 53 votes out of 55. The president-elect is expected to take the constitutional oath shortly.

Reportage on Rene Mu'awwad's Assassination

Al-Huss Informs Arab Leaders

NC2211181789 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 22 Nov 89

[Text] The criminal assassination of the president has been received with overwhelming anger and has aroused domestic, Arab, and international reactions. Political, partisan, and parliamentary figures visited the late president's residence. These figures also visited Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni and Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss.

Dr al-Huss telephoned Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and the members of the higher Arab tripartite committee, Saudi King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, Morocco's King Hassan II, and Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid and informed them of what had happened. He consulted them about developments. Dr al-Huss also met with Interior Minister Dr 'Abdallah al-Rasi.

Husayn al-Husayni received telephone calls from Arab envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi, Phalangist Party Leader George Sa'adah, and from Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shiite Council.

Al-Husayni 'Eulogizes' Mu'awwad

NC2211183389 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Nov 89

[Text] Husayn al-Husayni, speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, has eulogized President of the Republic Rene Mu'awwad. He said:

On behalf of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies, I announce with deep regret and sorrow to the Lebanese people and to the Arab and friendly countries the death of His Excellency Martyr Rene Mu'awwad, president of the Republic of Lebanon, the martyr of Lebanon, the martyr of the single people and single state, who was assassinated by a criminal and treacherous hand on national Independence Day.

On behalf of the Chamber of Deputies, I extend the sincerest and deepest condolescences to the Lebanese people on our great loss. I appeal to all the Lebanese to stay committed strongly and faithfully to the principles and values which were embodied by the late Mu'awwad to save our homeland, Lebanon.

I bow with deep humility to the memory of the martyr president. I extend heartfelt condolences to his family, praying to God to grant them patience and solace. We pledge to all the Lebanese people that we will continue with firm determination and conviction the march for whose sake President Rene Mu'awwad was martyred, may God have mercy on his soul.

Speaker al-Husayni made a statement on the tragedy that has befallen Lebanon and the Lebanese people. He said: Every one of us is Rene Mu'awwad. Each one of us has the duty to continue the march until complete salvation, regardless of the extent of the plot against this people and regardless of the powers that are continuing to plot. There is no other option but the retrieval of our country, its dignity and its sons' dignity, its sovereignty, and its independence.

Patriarch Sfayr Condemns Act

NC2211190489 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 22 Nov 89

[Text] Maronite Patriarch Mar Nasrallah Butrus Sfayr strongly condemned the president's assassination and wondered: Where is Lebanon heading? It is being deprived of its leaders and acts of violence have become customary, and if they continue, the remaining leaders will be exterminated. Sfayr appealed to God to protect Lebanon.

Phalangist Sa'adah Reacts

NC2211201989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 22 Nov 89

[Text] Phalangist Party Leader George Sa'adah said: God save Lebanon, for the conspiracy persists to harm the homeland. The treacherous hand that struck down President Mu'awwad on Independence Day has struck Lebanon on the anniversary dearest to those Lebanese hearts who cherish the hope of effective independence and full sovereignty.

We, who have been pained by the tragedy that has wounded our hearts, extend to Lebanon, the Lebanese people, the martyr's family, and the families of the martyrs who died with him our sincerest condolences.

May God grant us all solace and let the martyrdom of President Mu'awwad, who believed in Lebanon as a homeland of liberty and democracy, be counted among the offerings on the altar of the homeland and among those who spilled their own blood so that Lebanon could live.

PSP Blames 'Awn Group

NC2211204289 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 2000 GMT 22 Nov 89

[Text] The secretariat general has issued a statement on behalf of the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] Political Bureau in which it strongly denounced the treacherous assassination of the late Rene Mu'awwad, president of the Republic of Lebanon.

It stressed that behind this crime are the hands of the secessionist military clique which is imposing its hegemony on the fate of part of the homeland, working to foil the plan for a settlement and all agreements for reconciliation, destroying the basis for coexistence and principles of Lebanon's unity, and threatening its Arab identity.

The statement added that the Michel 'Awn's military clique—which has claimed for itself sole authority in Lebanon, has dealt a blow to the legitimate establishments, and has tried to destroy them through what it called the decision to dissolve the Chamber of Deputies, and what it did in the past to impede the presidential elections—has boasted that it is continuing its mutiny against the supremacy of law, the state, and the legitimate authority. It has also announced the start of preparations for illegal elections to the Chamber of Deputies and for the presidential elections.

This clique has stubbornly rejected the political settlement which was agreed on at al-Ta'if under Arab auspices and with international backing. It is the same clique that declared mutiny against the presidential authority and claimed the ability to prevent the president of the Republic from reaching the B'abda Palace and the Army commander to be appointed from reaching (?al-Yarzah).

It is this clique which is behind this crime and is threatening, through the assassination of President Mu'awwad, Lebanon's national security and pan-Arab security with its partitionist plans which are linked to Israel and some of the imperialist Western countries.

The 'Awn clique has recorded numerous black pages against Lebanese symbols and its aggressions have even reached the prime spiritual leader of Lebanon's Christians in the person of Patriarch Sfayr and almost killed him. It is today delivering a poisoned blow to the Lebanese people's hope of agreement and reconciliation.

The PSP stresses its strong denunciation of this crime and appeals to all the Lebanese people and their influential forces to realize the gravity and consequences of this assassination, particularly on the Christians and on the fate of coexistence and on Lebanon's fate too. It calls on the Lebanese people to take a responsible stand on this fateful event and to renew their commitment to reconciliation in order to save Lebanon from the danger of the partitionist plan which is being implemented by 'Awn and his military clique.

Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Morocco Meet

NC2211223389 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2145 GMT 22 Nov 89

[Text] AFP this evening quoted a well-informed source in Riyadh as saying that Saudi Arabia began contacts with Algeria and Morocco, its partners in the tripartite higher Arab committee, in the wake of the assassination of President Rene Mu'awwad this afternoon. The same source pointed out that Riyadh exchanged views with the two other capitals, particularly about the nature of steps that the committee needs to make following the assassination.

The agency quoted a source close to Dr Salim al-Huss as saying that Al-Huss held contacts with the leaders of the tripartite Arab committee to discuss the subject of filling the constitutional vacuum. He also contacted Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on the same issue.

National Front Issues Statement

NC2311064489 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 23 Nov 89

[Text] The Lebanese National Front held a meeting at the residence of Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri yesterday evening. The Front issued a statement in which it said: Criminal and treacherous hands assassinated Lebanese President Rene Mu'awwad on Independence Day after he had resolved to achieve national salvation and restore Lebanon's unity and Arabism, as well as to give peace to all Lebanese. President Mu'awwad was a martyr to all these values, which he explained in his inauguration address.

The statement adds: Oh Lebanon's martyr and leader of our men: You were the target of the plot before you had the chance to embark on practical steps and attain the unity of Lebanese soil, people, and institutions. This plot aims to return Lebanon to the chaos of sedition and infighting and to obstruct the peace march.

The National Front's statement says that it is high time that the bloodbaths in Lebanon were stopped and the roots of the Zionist-isolationist criminal designs, which are aimed against all Lebanese people and all chances for peace, eliminated. These designs can be totally thwarted by settling the required confrontation with the obstructionists so that the representatives of the Lebanese people can immediately fulfill their duties and elect a new president of the Republic in full freedom and without any threats or intimidation. This would constitute the best reply to this abominable crime.

The Front called for observing a general strike throughout Lebanon today.

National Front Accuses 'Awn

NC2311071389 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0530 GMT 23 Nov 89

[Text] The Lebanese National Front has accused General Michel 'Awn of assassinating President Mu'awwad. In a statement issued last night, the Front emphasized that 'Awn's factional sectarian army is responsible for the crime. The Front added that this crime aims at drowning the country in the chaos of violence and confrontation. The Front stressed the need for unifying all forces to confront the plots being hatched in the eastern areas and for forging ahead with the peace process.

The National Front held a meeting at the residence of Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri yesterday evening to discuss the developments in light of the assassination of President Mu'awwad.

Junblatt Comments

NC2311094989 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0530 GMT 23 Nov 89

[Text] Progressive Socialist Party Leader Walid Junblatt has said the assassination of Lebanese President Rene Mu'awwad jeopardizes Lebanon's unity and the recent plan to achieve some kind of peace in the country.

In an interview with Radio Monte Carlo, Junblatt said: I accuse some Arab regimes and some circles which seek to establish a Christian state in Lebanon of being responsible for the attack. He added: You can ask Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz. We also must ask where the PLO is; they had not recognized President Mu'awwad.

Asked whether he blames General Michel 'Awn for the assassination of President Mu'awwad, Junblatt said: 'Awn is only a tool in the hands of Iraq and Israel. He added: We must ask France if it wants a multisectored Lebanon or a Christian Lebanon on Jabal Lubnan. I address this question directly to President Francois Mitterrand. Although I do not accuse France, apart from some inadequate and timid remarks, it did not officially recognize Mu'awwad.

Previous Attempts Reported

NC2311073089 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 23 Nov 89

[Text] According to security reports, the assassination attempt which hit its target in Beirut had been preceded by two foiled attempts on the life of President Rene Mu'awwad in the north.

The reports say that the first attempt was made by a Lebanese soldier who was caught in Ihdin in possession of a detonator. He had been entrusted by certain Lebanese quarters with the task of planting the device in the president's car, and hiding himself among the crowd which came to congratulate the new president.

The second attempt was uncovered in Ihdin on 19 November. As a result of that attempt, the late President Mu'awwad changed the route he was to have taken to the al-Qulay'at airport, as well as the route for his return to Beirut. The president took another car to the al-Qulay'at airport without his motorcade. As a precautionary measure, Mu'awwad asked Damascus to send him a private plane. He flew to Beirut aboard this plane while a Middle East Airlines aircraft transported his guests.

Zgharta Political Command Statement

NC2311075189 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 0700 GMT 23 Nov 89

[Text] The higher political command in Zgharta al-Zawiyah held an extraordinary meeting yesterday evening and issued the following statement:

Shocked by the horrific calamity which afflicted the country on the anniversary of its independence, represented by the assassination of President Rene Mu'awwad, the comrade of the long road who dedicated his life to Lebanon's dignity, democracy, coexistence, and national sovereighty, the higher political command in Zgharta al-Zawiyah asserts that the solid nationalist course pursued by the martyr as a deputy, a minister, and a president will continue. The area of Zgharta al-Zawiyah, which has always been a solid base for defending the country's unity and the citizens' freedom, vows to all Lebanese that it will continue to be committed to the course of the martyr president and his martyred companions to bring about national accord and peace.

Amal Denounces 'Crime'

NC2311121589 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 23 Nov 89

[Text] The Amal Movement has denounced the crime, saying that its target was not only the person of the president of the Republic, but also the process of salvation and Lebanon's unity and Arabism.

A statement issued by the movement today following an extraordinary meeting of the Political Bureau and the Executive Committee under Colonel 'Akif Haydar said that the response to the crime requires a united nationalist stand and support for continuing along the road to a solution. The statement also called for toppling the military clique.

The Amal Movement's Political Bureau is keeping its meetings open to follow developments.

Junblatt, Birri on Death

JN2311133489 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Nov 89

[Text] Amid an atmosphere of strong condemnation of the martyrdom of President Rene Mu'awwad, intensive consultations involving a number of Lebanese figures and the Syrian leadership are taking place here. Among

these figures are Nabih Birri, Walid Junblatt, and 'Abdallah al-Amin. Nabih Birri answered a question posed to him by our radio:

[Begin Birri recording] My position is no different than that of any Lebanese citizen, whether an official or an ordinary citizen. It is a position of condemnation of the incredible thing, the horrifying surprise, that took place on Lebanon's Independence Day—the assassination of a man who was trying to move forward with new ideas. I had the opportunity to meet him twice after his election. Honestly, I found in him many features of new Lebanon. Regrettably, those who plotted and carried out the operation realized this. Rene Mu'awwad was not assassinated by a single person, but by an entire regime; it is the same hand that killed Rashid Karami—namely, the al-Yarzah army under the command of Michel 'Awn. This is the truth, and the word of truth always must be said; wherever there is a criminal, fingers must be pointed at him. [end recording]

Meanwhile, Walid Junblatt held a news conference in his office in Damascus. He said he hoped some governments would take the disaster as a lesson and abandon their tolerance of the military regime in Lebanon and understand the fate of the region is at stake, and so is the fate of the Christians. He added: I accuse all those who have appeased Michel 'Awn; we do not accept the emergence of new Israel on Lebanon's soil. If we do not elect a president of the republic tomorrow or in the next few days, we will enter a hellish stage. Junblatt went on to say:

[Begin Junblatt recording, in progress] ...Electing a new president of the republic and sacking rebel officer Michel 'Awn—asking him to comply with this peacefully; otherwise we will enter a new, unavoidable cycle of violence. Some have thought developments in Lebanon still carry on within the traditional framework; there were traditional consultations, regrettably, but now we are going through an extraordinary situation. We have to elect a president and form a government in about 24 hours. These are exceptional circumstances. The fate of the Lebanese homeland is at stake. If we do not elect a president of the republic as soon as possible, form a government, and take political, economic, legal, and, if necessary, military measures against Michel 'Awn and his group, then I fear to say that partition will take place—I do not want to use these words, but I fear to say, and I almost do say, partition will occur. Partition, of course, will be an invitation to big schemes in the region. [end recording]

Phalangist Bureau Comments

NC2311131589 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 23 Nov 89

[Text] The Political Bureau of the Phalangist Party held an extraordinary meeting under the chairmanship of deputy leader Lawyer Munir al-Haj. After reviewing the latest developments, it issued the following statement:

One: The party strongly denounces the horrific terrorist crime which was targeted against President Rene Mu'awwad and his companions.

Two: The party views the assassination of the president as an attempt to deal a blow to the national will, which seeks the reunification and liberation of Lebanon and the reconstruction of a state of justice, equality, and peace. Removing President Mu'awwad at this crucial stage in Lebanon's history, after the prospect of hope, unity, and peace had emerged on the horizon, only can be interpreted as a continuation of a dangerous and serious scheme to keep Lebanon in the chaos of the war that has been imposed on it, and thus to displace its people to achieve the goals of resettlement, partition, and the elimination of our identity and our land.

Three: The Phalangist Party appeals to all Lebanese to rise to the level of the historic and fateful challenges which are facing Lebanon, to rise above the tragedy, and to unite as one to rescue Lebanon by reviving its constitutional institutions, so they can continue the peace march and regain full sovereignty over all Lebanese territory.

Four: The Phalangist Party believes the late president was a symbol of nationalism who fought for survival, freedom, and dignity. Therefore, the party extends heartfelt condolences to all Lebanese inside and outside the homeland, to the family of the late president, the families of his late companions, and Zgharta. The party pledges to the martyrs it will continue to struggle for the principles for which they were martyred.

Junblatt News Conference

NC2311172089 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 23 Nov 89

[News conference held by Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt with unidentified reporters at the party's offices in Damascus; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Junblatt] We hope this national and pan-Arab catastrophe will be a lesson to some of the Arab regimes and governments and to certain foreign countries so they will stop backing, supporting, or appeasing Michel 'Awn and military rule in Lebanon. We hope these Arab and foreign regimes will understand that the fate of the region is at stake and that, specifically, the fate of the Christians is at stake. The Christians have been and will remain an indivisible part of the Arab and Islamic world, contrary to what some parties, such as certain Arab or foreign regimes and Israel, would like.

At an earlier stage, during the work of the six-member committee, we received Chedli Klibi and Lakhdar Ibrahimi and explained to them the dangers posed by Michel 'Awn's regime. Despite this, the appeasement by these Arab regimes and, particularly, the backing provided by some of them in terms of weapons, funds, and policies have brought us to this catastrophe and may bring us to

still dirtier catastrophes in the future if we in the Arab world do not realize what is happening in Lebanon.

I will not accuse anyone. Naturally, the direct accusation is levelled at Michel 'Awn and his gang. But I accuse all those who have appeased the Lebanese system as represented by Michel 'Awn. The time has come, and I reiterate this, for all of us to realize the gravity of the (?situation). The Christians have been an indivisible part of the Arab and Islamic world. We do not want to have the Christians of the east severed from this world and from this environment, and we will not agree to this. This [word indistinct] by history, geography, traditions, and norms. We will not allow a second Israel to be established in Lebanon.

However, the question we ask the Iraqi regime, the PLO, and some regimes that have allowed weapons to be shipped to Lebanon is this: What comes next? Are they content with the destruction of the Lebanese people and the partition of Lebanon or do they want to carry this policy further? We ask France: Have you stopped appeasing Michel 'Awn's military regime in Lebanon or do you still want to set up a Christian statelet on the ruins of Lebanon and the Christians of the east? The question for the Vatican and Cardinal O'Connor is this: What comes next? That is what I wanted to say today. Of course, Israel is the primary beneficiary. In the end, Israel wants the homelands and minorities to be revived and then fight each other. But there are those who have gone along with Israel and joined it in this plan. The time has come for the Arab world—for public opinion, if there is such a thing in the Arab world—to move and rise. I am ready to answer any particular questions.

[Unidentified reporter] You have mentioned the Iraqi regime and the PLO. [words indistinct] what does this mean? Do we understand from this [words indistinct]?

[Junblatt] If we do not elect a president tomorrow or in the next few days through the legitimate Chamber of Deputies which elected the late martyr President Rene Mu'awwad, we will be in a hellish situation that might be a state of partition. The statement by [Iraqi Foreign Minister] Tariq 'Aziz is very clear; namely, that it is not a matter of electing a president, but a matter of occupations, specifically the Syrian occupation. That is what Tariq 'Aziz said. We are aware of his relations with Michel 'Awn. As to the PLO, it has other absurd aims. These aims are absurd because, as usual, the PLO is shortsighted. It believes if it cannot succeed in establishing the Palestinian state in the West Bank or the Gaza Strip, Lebanon might be a sort of shelter or alternative state or homeland. These are the calculations of the PLO, of some people in the PLO, so as not to do injustice to the others. We never heard they officially had recognized Rene Mu'awwad. They were content with an ambiguous statement made by Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf].

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Junblatt] We can say in general terms at least that since Richard Murphy's plan started with the then Syrian negotiator 'Abd- al-Halim Khaddam, the United States, outwardly at least, supported reforms, unity, and institutions in Lebanon. I believe this plan conflicted with the plans of other countries in the region, specifically Israel, Iraq, and France at one stage. Of course, there are the Kissinger elements in the U.S. Administraion. This is true, but I do not believe it is in the U.S. interests to deal in the future with statelets, tribes, and sects, God forbid. After all, there are far wider strategic and economic interests.

[Reporter] What is needed now in Lebanon following the crime of President Rene Mu'awwad's assassination?

[Junblatt] The election of a new president and the dismissal of mutineer officer Michel 'Awn. He must be asked to comply peacefully, otherwise we will be entering an inevitable cycle of violence.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Junblatt] Some people have thought events and the situation in Lebanon still are conforming to their traditional framework. There have been traditional consultations, regrettably. The situation is an exceptional one. We must elect a president and form a government within 24 hours. The situation is exceptional, and the fate of the Lebanese homeland is at stake.

[Reporter] How do you think events in Lebanon will develop if [words indistinct]?

[Junblatt] If we do not elect a president as soon as possible, form a government, and take political, economic, legal, and, if necessary, military measures against the rebellious gang, against Michel 'Awn and his clique, then I am afraid that partition has taken place. I do not want to use this word, but I am afraid to say that partition has taken place. Naturally, partition will be the prelude for other big schemes in the region.

[Reporter] You say that Michel 'Awn is responsible for the death of President Rene Mu'awwad?

[Junblatt] Correct.

[Reporter] What measures must be taken [words indistinct]?

[Junblatt] The issue of security in West Beirut has so far been [rephrases] there is a security failure. We, as national Lebanese forces, call on Syria to consider West Beirut part of Syria, as far as security is concerned. Let West Beirut be treated the same way as Damascus, Hims, and other towns. We have no objection to this, regardless of the results, even if half the population of Beirut is sent to prison in Syria. We cannot bear this chaos anymore. I am officially demanding this in my name and on behalf of the nationalist Lebanese forces because pan-Arab security today is linked with West Beirut. The latter is a pit where corruption, all the world's intelligence services—the Lebanese [word indistinct] bureau, Iraq, some organs linked to the PLO—are thriving.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Junblatt, in English] Well, it is time to realize that with the assassination of Rene Mu'awwad, we are living a critical issue in Lebanon. Either we elect a new president with a government, finish the rebellion of Michel 'Awn, politically speaking, economically speaking, militarily if it is necessary, or we are assisting a kind of partition in Lebanon which later could mean total chaos in the whole area, which will endanger everyone, Muslims and Christians, from Lebanon to Egypt, to everywhere. It is time for the West, for certain governments in the West, to stop helping Michel 'Awn politically or financially or militarily and for the Arabs to realize everyone is in danger if partition is to be established in Lebanon.

If certain Arab regimes far away helping now Michel 'Awn think that they are not in danger, they are wrong because they are still sending arms, weapons, money to Michel 'Awn. This is the message I am saying now. I hope that we will have elections tomorrow. I hope we will have a president tomorrow. I hope we will have a government. It is not going to be easy. I hope that we will not again be obliged to fight, to get terrible bloodshed, as there is no way.

[Reporter, in English] You are accusing 'Awn, of course?

[Junblatt, in English] I am accusing 'Awn. Of course, why should I not accuse 'Awn? After all, Rashid Karami was killed at one time and we accused 'Awn. Isn't it the Lebanese Army, same style and method?

[Reporter, in English] Could you [word indistinct] this in the security situation in Beirut and [words indistinct]?

[Junblatt, in English] Well, I see that it will be [word indistinct] for the Syrians and we will ask this to the Syrians: to consider Beirut as, let us say, an area or a suburb of Damascus, or of Aleppo, or any Syrian city because our security is terribly endangered now by what happened and could be also terribly endangered in the future. It is time to get rid of all the elements that are endangering our security in West Beirut, whatever the price is.

Fatah's Khalaf Assails Remarks

NC2311195189 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 23 Nov 89

[Text] Salah Khalaf, alias Abu-Iyad, member of the Fatah Central Committee, has described Junblatt's remarks regarding possible PLO involvement in President Mu'awwad's assassination as irresponsible. Abu-Iyad stated he was not surprised by the remarks—which he described as reckless—because he has become accustomed to such statements from Junblatt.

He added: By accusing the PLO, the Druze leader has exceeded all bounds, and it appears he has lost his senses.

Ja'ja' Sends Condolences

NC2311163189 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 23 Nov 89

[Excerpts] Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja' has sent the following cable of condolence to Mrs Na'ilah Mu'awwad: [passage omitted]

The distinguished martyr, who contributed so much to the nation during his life, will enter the contemporary history of Lebanon as a symbol of the grave sacrifices which the Lebanese have made on the way to their Golgotha. His martyrdom summed up the suffering of every citizen, manifested in oppression, coercion, and disregard for his security and freedom, and the determination to struggle for life, freedom, and independence.

The cable adds: While I extend to you, to the members of your family, and all the Zgharta families my sincere condolences, I pray God grant you greater patience and faith to compensate for the loss of your partner in life. I also pray you will find great comfort in the love of all the Lebanese for the departed president and his beliefs, hoping your consolation will be completed with the return of peace and freedom to Lebanon as Rene Mu'awwad, the man, the official, and the leader, wanted.

'Awn Requests UN Investigation

NC2311161189 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 23 Nov 89

[Text] As part of the security and judicial investigations in connection with the assassination of President Rene Mu'awwad, the government of General Michel 'Awn today sent a message to the UN secretary general requesting an international committee be formed under UN supervision to investigate the crime of the assassination of President Mu'awwad. The committee also should investigate the series of assassinations that targeted leading Lebanese figures recently, the message said.

The message expressed the government's readiness to put all its resources at the disposal of the international committee in order to discover the culprit, or culprits, responsible for these crimes. The message noted the majority of these crimes were committed within a radius of not more than 300 meters from a certain point in the western part of the capital, which is under foreign military occupation.

'Awn Comments

NC2311162289 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 23 Nov 89

[Text] Commenting on President Mu'awwad's martyrdom, Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn has said: It would be petty and an act of effrontery against the Almighty for anyone to presume to act as judge in an issue which now lies within the province of the Great Pilot, may his majesty be glorified. Proceeding from this faith, we have more than once declared there is no

disagreement among the Lebanese over supreme national objectives. The disagreement is over the means to achieve these objectives. Consequently, there was no dispute between me and the dear martyr. Our true dispute is with the occupation which has brought humiliation and terror to the homeland, along with the assassination of goals, leaders, and dignity.

Gen 'Awn added: For this reason, we deem every Lebanese who falls while under the occupation a national martyr, whether he was a hero in Suq al-Gharb or elsewhere, or a political or spiritual leader who is treacherously struck down anywhere in Lebanon. We therefore have taken it upon ourselves to halt the cycle of violence in the free areas at whatever cost, because we realize martyrdom will remain the destiny of any one of us as long as the homeland is occupied and the occupier's tools bring crime everywhere.

Gen 'Awn continued: In this connection, we have drawn the attention of the Lebanese leaders to the fact that if, in their attempt to save the homeland, they enter the tunnels prepared by the foreign will, this will be an adventure that has honorable goals but is bound to fail. We have sacrificed more pure Lebanese blood and lost more patriotic leaders on this path than should have been the case. Our loss of the great martyr Rene Mu'awwad has left us thunderstruck. It is imperative for this crime to drive the world to acknowledge that saving Lebanon from occupations, crime, and terror will be the best service that can be done to the entire international community. I regard the great departed as one of our martyred leaders who paid with their lives for their sincere belief in what they consider the right path to the salvation of the homeland. I exhort all Lebanese leaders to unite their stands and adopt a historic position for salvation vis-a-vis the assassination of the homeland and the gloating pleasure the perpetrators take in the blood of our pious martyrs.

Hizballah Official Comments

NC2411072389 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 24 Nov 89

[Text] Commenting on the crime that claimed the life of President Rene Mu'awwad, [Hizballah official] His Eminence Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli made the following statement:

We cannot but condemn the crime that claimed the life of Mu'awwad. This crime aims to entrench the racist divisive course and to impose the atmosphere of the destructive war on the oppressed Lebanese people.

In his statement, his eminence added: We reiterate that Lebanon's salvation rests in the unity of all its sons to confront the Zionist occupation and role, as well as its predominant tools in the eastern areas and the occupied strip. We again urge all Islamic and nationalist forces to unify their ranks to abort the secessionist plot and curb the intransigence of the Zionist military clique in B'abda which is supported by the criminal Iraqi regime.

IUM Leader Blames 'Awn

NC2411074489 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 24 Nov 89

[Text] Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, leader of the Islamic Unification Movement [IUM], has accused Michel 'Awn and political Maronism of assassinating Rene Mu'awwad. He emphasized that the cycle of criminal assassinations is the work of professional Maronite criminals who have been trained by Zionism and the Mosad.

In his comment on the assassination of Mu'awwad, Shaykh Sha'ban said only crimes can be expected from political Maronism ,and its crimes also involve people affiliated with it. He pointed out Muslims are not obliged to accept the Arab tripartite committee's ideas, which are bound to consolidate the presidential post for Maronism. Shaykh Sha'ban noted the only way to get rid of such crimes is to eliminate political sectarianism and give the people the right to elect their president.

LCP Accuses 'Awn

NC2411142689 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 24 Nov 89

[Excerpt] The Political Bureau of the Lebanese Communist Party [LCP] has urged a firm response to the crime of the assassination of martyred President Rene Mu'awwad by an expeditious election of a new president and formation of a government committed to the priciples for which President Mu'awwad was martyred. The LCP Political Bureau also called for speedy legal, political, economic, and military measures against rebel officer Michel 'Awn and his gang to thwart the efforts of the enemies of Lebanon and the Arab nation.

The Political Bureau condemned the aforementioned crime, which 'Awn committed with cover from Israel, Iraq, and suspect Western forces. It noted that the crime not only aims to ravage Lebanon but also aims to ensure the presence of the Israeli occupation and to strike at the national Lebanese resistance to create a favorable atmosphere to impose the conquering plan on the region.

At an extraordinary meeting to discuss the aftermath of the criminal assassination of the president, the LCP Political Bureau urged all Lebanese nationalist and progressive forces to display unity to consolidate cooperation and coordination with fraternal Syria to confront the conspiracy. [passage omitted]

NLP Condemns Assassination

NC2411141889 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 24 Nov 89

[Text] The Higher Council of the National Liberal Party [NLP] has condemned the assassination of late northern leader Rene Mu'awwad. The Council noted that the assassination confirms that the plot is continuing against Lebanon and that acts of terrorism are still being carried out on its occupied land. The Council demanded that an international committee be formed to investigate the

crime, unveil the culprits and their supporters, and investigate the previous cycle of assassinations beginning with the late Kamal Junblatt, Mufti Khalid, and deputy Nazim al-Qadiri.

The Council expressed surprise at Syria's continued interference in Lebanon's domestic affairs.

'Awn Cabinet Wants General Mourning

NC2411144389 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 24 Nov 89

[Text] The Council of Ministers met today under the chairmanship of General Michel 'Awn. In the course of its ongoing open session, the council called for a general closure of business tomorrow in mourning for late President Rene Mu'awwad. Minister 'Isam Abu-Jamrah said: This crime is not the first of its kind and it will not be the last as long as non-Lebanese forces remain in Lebanon and control the destinies of leaders and people alike.

Strike Observed To Denounce Assassination

NC2311085089 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0830 GMT 23 Nov 89

[Text] The nationalist areas observed a general strike today to denounce the assassination of President Rene Mu'awwad. The strike will continue until Monday.

In another development, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni returned to Beirut this morning after holding talks with Syrian officials in Damascus on developments in light of the assassination of President Mu'awwad.

More on Strike in West Beirut

NC2311103989 Paris AFP in English 1009 GMT 23 Nov 89

[Excerpts] Beirut, Nov 23 (AFP)—Residents of Syrian-controlled West Beirut mourned the death of Lebanese President Rene Mu'awwad Thursday but life went on as usual in Christian regions held by Christian leader Michel 'Awn.

Lebanese newspapers said the assassination Wednesday of Mr Mu'awwad in a powerful bomb explosion in Syrian-controlled West Beirut dashed hopes for a national settlement and raised instead the specter of real partition in an already divided country.

Shops, schools, banks, and government offices were meanwhile shuttered in mostly Moslem West Beirut, where a strike called by pro-Syrian groups was widely observed. But across the capital's demarcation line, in Christian-held regions east and north of Beirut, schools and shops remained open.

Curiosity-seekers visited the site of the blast in a residential area of West Beirut and viewed in silent horror, the huge crater caused by the bomb that killed the newly elected president—a 64-year-old Maronite Christian—and at least 15 others.

At least 34 people were hurt when the 250 kilograms (550 pounds) of explosives blew up as the presidential motorcade passed nearby Wednesday on the 46th anniversary of Lebanon's independence.

It took security forces nearly an hour to identify the body of the slain president.

The strike was also observed in the Druze mountains southeast of Beirut, in the Syrian-controlled eastern al-Biqa' Valley and in northern and southern Lebanon, correspondents said. [passage omitted]

There was no comment Thursday morning on Mr Mu'awwad's assassination from the mainstream Christian Phalangist Party and the coalition Lebanese Forces militia, who had traditionally backed the general.

Lebanese newspapers meanwhile were almost unanimous Thursday in warning that the killing of a president committed to reconciliation could lead to the partition of Lebanon.

"The eyes of our people have dried up. No one is capable anymore of crying. We have all become angry and mad," commented the influential AL-NAHAR newspaper, an Arabic-language daily close to Gen 'Awn.

"Is it Rene Mu'awwad who is dead or is it Lebanon that "they" are trying to assassinate again," the newspaper said.

President-elect Bashir Al-Jumayyil was also killed by a bomb on September 14, 1982.

For the pro-Syrian AL-SAFIR newspaper, the "departure" of Mr Mu'awwad "ressucitates the ghost of partition before our eyes...(and raises) fears of losing forever the unity, the state, and peace." [passage omitted]

Reportage on Reaction to Mu'awwad Assassination

Asad's Cable of Condolence

JN2211193289 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 22 Nov 89

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad sent a cable of condolence on the death of His Excellency President Rene Mu'awwad to Lebanese Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, Lebanese Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss, and the family of the deceased President Mu'awwad. Following is the text:

We were painfully shocked at the news of the terrible crime perpetrated against His Excellency the late President Rene Mu'awwad, president of the Republic of Lebanon. This heinous crime committed on Lebanon's national day—its independence day—was planned by those who want evil for Lebanon, the enemies of its unity and accord, those whose hearts were filled with malice and rage when the march of national accord proceeded—something the Lebanese people had pinned their hopes on to regain their peace of mind and stability.

This crime was a response to the march of accord, and a base answer to the salutation of peace and love given by the late President Rene Mu'awwad to the Lebanese on their independence day. As much as they targeted him for being president of the Republic, they also targeted him for being a true symbol of the solution, which the Lebanese have awaited for years to relieve them of their crises and of the pains and tribulations from which they have too long suffered. They received good tidings with his elections and rallied around the legitimacy represented by him, the Chamber of Deputies, and the next national accord government.

In the name of the Arab Syrian people and in my name personally, I present to you and the fraternal Lebanese people sincerest, heart-felt condolences. I also direct my sincerest and deepest condolences to the wife of the great deceased, his children, and family. We stand by them in their plight.

Present Mu'awwad has been martyred for his national duty and honest action toward Lebanon's unity. Lebanon's tragedy resulting from the death of its president is a source of great pain to Lebanon, to us, and to all Lebanon's brothers and supporters. This must be channeled into a new incentive to double the support and backing for Lebanon so it can annihilate evil in its own lair and purge from its people the criminals who have a history in this field, and who wanted to destroy Lebanese unity through their crimes and prolong the agony and pain of the Lebanese.

Flags Flown at Half-Mast

JN2211194289 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 22 Nov 89

[Text] The Syrian Prime Ministry issued a statement instructing flags be flown at half-mast over all government buildings and institutions in the Syrian Arab Republic for a period of 7 days starting today in mourning over the late President Rene Mu'awwad, president of the Republic of Lebanon.

Al-Asad, Al-Huss Confer

JN2311065689 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 23 Nov 89

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received a telephone call last night from Lebanese Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss. They discussed the situation in Lebanon in light of the criminal assassination of late Lebanese President Rene Mu'awwad. During the call, Dr al-Huss reviewed the dimensions of the plot against Lebanon and Lebanese national reconciliation through the assassination of martyr President Rene Mu'awwad. He stressed the Lebanese Government's determination to oppose and foil the plot and to continue the march of national reconciliation with a view to maintaining Lebanon's unity and its higher national interests.

The president expressed deep condemnation of the assassination of President Mu'awwad—a crime meant to assassinate Lebanese national reconciliation and end its forward progress. He also expressed Syria's determination to help the Lebanese brothers in resisting the conspiracy against Lebanon. He stressed Syria's readiness to provide everything it can to help the Lebanese foil the conspiracy. The president also stressed the criminals will not achieve their goals, which are hostile to the national interest of the Lebanese people.

Talas Blames 'Triad'

JN2311221689 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 23 Nov 89

[Text] Aleppo—Under the patronage of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, commander in chief of the Army and the Armed Forces, to mark the 19th anniversary of the glorious Corrective Movement and within the framework of the celebrations being held by our Armed Forces on this dear occasion, a new batch of pilots, technicians, and air navigators enrolled in the Air Force Academy graduated this morning.

General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and the Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minister, deputized for his excellency the president. The defense minister delivered a speech reviewing the feats of heroism displayed by our Armed Forces in the October war of liberation. He also reviewed the great actions carried out by our heroic hawks and also by our Air Force Corps in this war. In this war, Gen Talas said, our heroic hawks confronted the enemy aircraft and destroyed it, turning it into masses of metal falling on the ground. Thus, they deserve the president's medals and the praise of the people, Gen Talas added.

In his speech, Gen Talas explained the situation in the Arab arena and the conspiracies being hatched against Syria, beginning with the Camp David accords and the partial and liquidatory deals that followed these accords.

These deals were met with the approval of agent Saddam Husayn, who launched his crazy war against the Iranian revolution on behalf and at the urging of imperialism and Zionism to achieve their objectives, Gen Talas said. Thus, agent Saddam squandered the capabilities of the two peoples [of Iraq and Iran] outside the arena of confrontation in an attempt to distract attention away from the Palestine question, the Arabs' central cause, the defense minister added.

Gen Talas went on to say: The fascist Saddam was not content with this. No, he continued his conspiracies against the Arab nation. He supported 'Awn and his clique in the partitioning of Lebanon to tear it apart from its Arab environment and to make it a festering wound in the Arab nation's flank. He asserted in his speech that al-Asad's Syria will continue to support fraternal Lebanon until it recovers from its ordeal and recovers its Arab affiliation and pan-Arab status, so it can play its pan-Arab role in the Arab-Zionist conflict.

The defense minister said: We were painfully shocked by the assassination of martyr Rene Mu'awwad, president of the fraternal Lebanese Republic. This heinous crime, which was perpetrated on Lebanon's independence day, was hatched by those harboring evil intentions toward Lebanon. By this I mean the triad of 'Awn, Shamir, and Saddam. These are the enemies of Lebanon's unity and reconciliation, the enemies of peace, as the explosion targetting our heroic martyr could not have been consummated except through Israel's expertise, Iraqi blessings, and agent hands; that is, the hands of Michel 'Awn, who did not have the honor of firing even one bullet at Israel when it invaded Beirut in the summer of 1982. However, this man fired thousands of bullets at our unarmed Lebanese people, especially school children and civilians.

Concluding his speech, Gen Talas thanked the academy's commander and its training staff for the efforts they have made to qualify and train students. He wished the three institutes of the Air Force Academy all success. Gen Talas pledged to our people's masses and to comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad, their beloved leader, that our Air Force will remain vigilant and prepared to play their role sincerely and fully in the honorable battles leading to victory and liberation, until the objectives of unity and liberation pursued by our steadfast people are achieved.

Paper Accuses 'Awn

JN2311084289 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 23 Nov 89

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline: "Evil Will Be Crushed in its Den", AL-BA'TH writes: The hand of treachery and crime has assassinated President Rene Mu'awwad in a flagrant attempt to return Lebanon to the path of bloodshed, the cycle of death, and the anarchy of murder and destruction, and to dash every hope of saving Lebanon from its ordeal. The paper adds: This crime comes after a series of threats by 'Awn against all the Lebanese; he carried out some of these threats by destroying and demolishing some deputies' houses and by injuring some key political and spiritual figures in the eastern part of Beirut. Yesterday, 'Awn completed this by planning the criminal act of which president Rene Mu'awwad was the victim.

AL-BA'TH explains that the criminal's choice of Lebanon's independence day as the time for executing his crime only indicates this sinful criminal insists his crime be directed at Lebanon's unity, independence, sovereignty, and national reconciliation. It adds: The crime is a natural extension of the series of military acts and the mad war that 'Awn has waged against Lebanon over the past months. The paper points out that the crime was perpetrated as Lebanon was nearing the gate of salvation and after the Lebanese had determined to move to a new stage of rebuilding their ruined country. It says 'Awn, through the assassination of President Mu'awwad, believes he can alter the balances, upset the equations, and dissolve national consensus. But he does not realize what his criminal hands have done only will strengthen the determination of Lebanese of all persuasions and affiliations to continue the march of national reconciliation, as drafted in the al-Ta'if document.

AL-BA'TH adds: We in Syria, as repeatedly stated by Preident Hafiz al-Asad, will continue to support our Lebanese brothers in good times and bad. As the president stressed in his condolence message on the death of President Mu'awwad, this great loss will be a new motive for redoubling our support and backing for Lebanon so it can crush evil in its den.

'Awn, Mosad, Iraq Blamed

JN2311150389 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1245 GMT 23 Nov 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The Lebanese, the Arabs, and the entire world have been stricken by the assassination of the martyr President Rene Mu'awwad and consider the murder a national catastrophe. Through leader al-Asad, Syria expressed deep sorrow over the tragedy inflicted on the sisterly country at a time when the national reconciliation process was taking its first steps. It is obvious those who are harmed by the reconciliation—the enemies of Lebanon, the Arabs, and peace—stand behind the heinous crime. Those enemies want through this crime to torpedo Lebanese national reconciliation and return the Lebanese to the hotbed of fighting, destruction, and displacement.

The fingers of accusation in Lebanon and the world were pointed at the conspiratorial clique linked with the Zionist scheme, particularly since this clique has threatened and warned key political and spiritual personalities in the sisterly country. The clique carried out its threats when it blew up a number of Lebanese deputies' homes.

He who has started a crazy war against Beirut and other areas under the pretext of so-called liberation, dissolves the Chamber of Deputies, and attacks spiritual and legislative authorities will not pause long over the assassination of the Lebanese president-elect. He will see in the heinous and bestial crime a path to continue his conspiracy against Lebanon's unity and Arabism after it has been put into a deep corner and subjected to a Lebanese, Arab, and international siege.

If we review the statements and stands of the three parties—'Awn, Israel, and the Iraqi regime—we will find full agreement. 'Awn's crimes are known; Israel believes the killing of President Mu'awwad is the end of the al-Ta'if meeting and consequently, an end to reconciliation. The Iraqi regime, which harbored hostility to President Mu'awwad and the Lebanese national reconciliation, remains silent. This silence shows the Iraqi regime's conspiracy and its involvement in the crime. 'Awn sought help from Mosad agents and the Iraqi regime, and they played their role in the past planting of bombs and boobytrapped cars in West Beirut.

This trinity plotting against Lebanon, its unity, and Arabism, is responsible for the crime. But have the killers succeeded in killing national reconciliation? We can certainly say: No. The Lebanese people and their leading figures are determined, more than ever, to continue the national march for whose sake President Mu'awwad was martyred. The Lebanese, who offered big sacrifices, will continue to exert efforts to save Lebanon from the plotters out of their faithfulness to Lebanon and to President Mu'awwad himself.

President Mu'awwad, may God's mercy be upon him, was a nationalist who never refrained from giving, so Lebanon would recover and resume its Arab and civilized role. Before his martyrdom, President Mu'awwad announced his unshakable belief in Arab Lebanon, which affects and is affected by its Arab community. And when the deputies called on him to shoulder the responsibility, he accepted his difficult national mission with self-denial and faithfulness; he was not frightened.

Mu'awwad's martyrdom will constitute a new factor in the salvation of Lebanon. The criminal plotters believed removing the president-elect would facilitate their base objectives. However, the president's martyrdom will be an additional motive for the Lebanese brothers to achieve their unity, accomplish their reconciliation, bury hatred and grudges, and spread the spirit of unity and peace.

Lebanon, which mourns its martyr president, is faithful to the message. Lebanon's efforts always will enjoy unlimited help from Syria, support from the Arabs, and the backing of the world. But the criminals who perpetrated this cowardly act will pay the price and will be rejected by the Lebanese people forever.

People Will 'Topple' 'Awn, Saddam

JN2411072089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 24 Nov 89

[From the press review]

[Text] Gentlemen, in an editorial entitled, "They Can Kill the Smile, but They Cannot Kill a Homeland," AL-BA'TH writes:

It is easy for the criminal to assassinate a free man, but he can never assassinate a homeland. The criminal here is Michel 'Awn, who wagered on executing Ben Gurion's testament to the advocates of Zionism and promised to make Lebanese blood the tool for carrying out his gamble and his promise.

We do not believe the Iraqi regime was far removed from 'Awn's crime. That regime is an expert in explosions in public squares and crowded streets. The Baghdad rulers' position on the al-Ta'if agreement indicates they have arranged for the crime and knew about it in advance. Just as Michel 'Awn refused to unify Lebanon in response to the Arab effort and international support, the Baghdad rulers refused to submit to the common Arab desire. The reason is the same: As Michel 'Awn is afraid of peace and security in Lebanon, Saddam was entrusted a long time ago with the task of preventing stability in the Arab homeland and with distracting the the Arabs' attention from their important issues.

AL-BA'TH concludes: The people who toppled the Zionist invaders in the quagmires of death will not fail to topple an executioner whose hands are stained with the blood of everyone. And the people who took Nuri al-Sa'id's colonial guardians by surprise and toppled him will not fail to reach that tyrant in Baghdad who took it upon himself to kill the smile in the Iraqis' eyes and now is in alliance with the tyrant in Lebanon to kill the Lebanese smile.

USSR Ambassador Holds News Conference 22 Nov

Comments on Mu'awwad Death

JN2211212289 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2000 GMT 22 Nov 89

[From the "Panorama" program]

[Text] The Soviet ambassador in Damascus held a news conference this afternoon in which he explained many points attributed to him in a statement published recently in the THE WASHINGTON POST, particularly with regard to relations between Moscow and Damascus. Our correspondent Louis Faris conveys the most important topics discussed by the Soviet ambassador in the Syrian capital:

[Begin recording] [Faris] Aleksandr Zotov, Soviet ambassador to Syria, has spoken about the military cooperation between his country and Syria. He said that the USSR fully intends to fulfill its commitments by

presenting aid in a way that guarantees Syria's security. He affirmed that Syria has a full right to endeavor to obtain any weapons it needs to feel that it is not in a weak position in talks proposed by Israel from a strong and threatening position.

After noting the visit to Damascus by the Soviet defense minister and the visit to Moscow by [Syrian Chief of Staff] General Hikmat al-Shihabi, the Soviet ambassador said: We have future plans that we are studying with complete seriousness. However, the Soviet ambassador accused Zionist propaganda of exaggerating the issue of supplying Syria with weapons so that Israel will continue the arms race and achieve its blackmail policy.

The Soviet ambassador described Syria as a close and friendly country in the region. He said: We understand that putting pressure on Syria will harm our interests in the region. Therefore, we will allow no one to shake the mutual confidence between our country and Syria.

On Syrian debts, the ambassador affirmed that allegations that the USSR is asking for the repayment of debts in hard currency are groundless. He said: We deal with the Syrians through long-term repayment agreements. We also present to Syria other services that will be repaid after 15 years. He added: I cannot say that Syria is committed to repaying the debts immediately; however, when the payment is due, Syria will repay through shipping commodities.

The ambassador revealed large joint projects between the two countries and said that the trade exchange this year has reached 0.5 billion rubles. He announced that a big economic delegation will visit Damascus soon.

On the assassination of martyr President Rene Mu'awwad, Zotov said: We were very shocked at this terrorist act, which constitutes a danger to the development in the political solution in Lebanon. [end recording]

Praises Ties, Pledges Support

JN2311080289 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 23 Nov 89

[Text] Damascus—Aleksandr Zotov, Soviet ambassador in Damascus, has praised the ties of friendship and cooperation between the Soviet Union and Syria, which constantly are developing and growing stronger for the benefit of the two friendly peoples and countries.

In a news conference yesterday at the Soviet Embassy in Damascus, Zotov said: There is a political understanding between Damascus and Moscow. This was confirmed during Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze's visit to Damascus, when full coordination between the two countries on all issues concerning the region and the world was emphasized.

Zotov said there were no fundamental differences between the two countries on how to solve the major issues and the issues in the region.

Regarding military cooperation, Ambassador Zotov said the Soviet Union fully intends to fulfill its commitments by providing assistance capable of guaranteeing Syria's security.

He added: There is a part of Syrian territory still under occupation. Israel is expanding its military capabilities without restraint and without hiding its expansionist policy. It also is intimidating the Arab states with its nuclear and missile programs.

The ambassador said Syria has the full right to develop its capabilities to face the Israeli threat and stated that military cooperation with Syria will continue.

Zotov added: The Israeli media like to talk about Syria being armed with imaginary types of weapons to justify requesting any type of weapons to face Syria's threats. Shamir is going around the United States talking on this theme in order to obtain new types of U.S. weapons.

Zotov added: The objective behind this is to show Syria as a very powerful country; and therefore, that Israel must be guaranteed greater superiority to protect it from Syria's threats; or, on the other hand, to show Syria as a weak country with the aim of putting pressure on it.

He said: We will not allow anyone to shake the deep confidence between our two countries, peoples, and leaders.

Answering a question on the conflict in the Middle East and on the Palestine question, the Soviet ambassador said: Our position on the Palestinian people's struggle is known and clear. The Soviet Government and peoples support the Palestinian people's just struggle against Israeli occupation for their national rights.

The Soviet ambassador asserted that regional conflicts must be resolved peacefully. He said: We understand the position of our Syrian friends. It is difficult to imagine a just solution if one country is strong while the other is weak, and this position is justified enough.

Answering a question on Soviet-Israeli relations, Zotov said: There is no change in the Soviet Government's position, and there are no radical changes in this regard.

Answering a question on reports in some Western newspapers on his country's position toward Syria, Zotov said: The Western press is trying distort the facts and disturb the good relations between the two countries. They deliberately highlighted certain points in my interview and ignored other, positive points they do not like.

Regarding Syrian debts to the Soviet Union, the Soviet ambassador said: The figures mentioned on the hard currency the Soviet Union is asking Syria to pay on its debts are very far from the truth. Also, the figures given for the amount of the debts are greatly exaggerated.

Answering a question on the assassination of Lebanese President Rene Mu'awwad, Zotov said: It is a very saddening and serious event. It is a calculated act of

terrorism that could return Lebanon to the atmosphere of civil war in a more violent manner and prevent the country's unity.

Foreign Minister Receives Argentina's Yoma

JN2311192789 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 23 Nov 89

[Text] At noon today, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received Mr (Alfredo Karim Yoma), secretary of state for political affairs at the Argentine Foreign Ministry. Assistant Foreign Minister Diya'ullah al-Fattal and American Department Director Raslan 'Allush attended the meeting. During the meeting, the talks revolved around ways of bolstering and expanding bilateral relations in the various fields. The regional situation and Latin American developments also were reviewed.

Paper Reacts to Israeli Raid on Southern Lebanon

JN2411080089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 24 Nov 89

[From the press review]

[Text] In the "With the Events" column, the newspaper AL-BA'TH comments on the Israeli provocations against the international community, saying:

Once again, with a great majority and away from the weapon of the U.S. veto, the international community expressed its real position on the racist Zionist entity. Through the UN General Assembly, the international community issued a resolution denouncing the savage, terroristic Israeli practices in the occupied Arab territories and asserted the need to give the Palestinian people their full rights.

Israel did not take long to make its attitude toward this resolution in particular, and toward the international community in general, known. A few hours after the international resolution was issued, its warplanes carried out a savage raid against Lebanese civilian areas at the time when the world was recovering from the shock of the assassination of the martyr Lebanese president, Rene Mu'awwad at the hands of Israel and its agent tools.

AL-BA'TH goes on to say: Throughout the past 40 years, the Zionist entity has rejected and challenged the resolutions issued by the United Nations on the Palestine question, the Palestinian people's rights, and the Arab-Zionist conflict. That entity unequivocally asserted its determination to continue its aggressions and treacherous wars against the Arab nation. But, what happened yesterday is the ultimate in Zionist provocations against the international community as a whole. It reveals not only the true nature of this racist and fascist entity, but also its readiness to threaten the security and peace of the whole world after violating all international laws, regulations, and norms.

Assembly Speaker Receives Fatah's Abu-Musa

JN2211180089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 22 Nov 89

[Text] Damascus—People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah this morning received the Fatah Movement delegation headed by Abu-Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] and the membership of Khalid al-'Amlah and Abu-'Ali [not further identified]

Abu-Musa talked about issues the Fatah Movement's conference dealt with in Damascus. He affirmed the movement's commitment to the national and pan-Arab struggle—led by the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party under its secretary general struggler comrade Hafiz al-Asad—for political and international issues, especially the Palestine question.

Abu-Musa affirmed the preordained Syrian-Palestinian relationship and said our belief in Syria's fixed pan-Arab stands on Palestine and the Arab nation's causes is not emotional. It is a firm and principled stand to retrieve usurped rights and liberate the occupied Arab territories.

He said: The Arab Syrian steadfastness in the face of the schemes and conspiracies of imperialism and Zionism manifests the continuation of the Palestinian revolution's struggle and support for the elements of its steadfastness to realize its goals and preserve the dignity and honor of the Arab nation.

In his speech, Mr Qaddurah affirmed Syria's firm and principled national and pan-Arab role toward all the Arab causes, foremost of which is the central cause of the Arab nation—the Palestine question. He pointed out the great sacrifices made by Syria for the Arab nation and its just causes. He highlighted the massive sacrifices made to preserve Lebanon's unity, Arab identity, sovereignty, and independence, and to face the Israeli invasion in 1982 when our Armed Forces provided the most fabulous examples of heroism and sacrifice in facing the enemies of the Arab nation.

Qaddurah affirmed the steadfastness of Syria under the leadership of Hafiz al-Asad in confronting the conspiracies of imperialism and Zionism which aim to control the Arab region and impose capitulationist solutions. He pointed out Syria's unlimited support for our people's valiant intifadah in the occupied Palestinian Arab territories, the Golan Heights, and southern Lebanon until our goals of retrieving the usurped rights and liberating the occupied Arab territories are realized.

Presidential Law on 1989 Budget Issued

JN2211173089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 22 Nov 89

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad has issued Law No 18, dated 21 November 1989, on the general budget for the fiscal year 1989, which totals 57 billion Syrian pounds. The Syrian finance minister will issue the necessary instructions to implement the provisions of this law.

Oil Minister on Exports, Future Prospects

JN1611204089 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic
15 Nov 89 p 3

[By Ahmad Abu-Matar]

[Excerpt] Following the series of recent oil discoveries in Syria, international oil-prospecting companies began to focus their attention on Syrian oil. The rush by these companies to win service contracts in Syria reflected the serious hopes Syrian officials pin on the future of oil in the country and their optimism for soon joining the club of major producers. During the past few years, Syria began to take the first steps toward exporting part of its oil. The ratio of its oil exports against its overall exports rose from 16.6 percent in 1970 to about 62 percent in the first half of the eighties, whereas oil exports during the first half of this year amounted to 71.7 percent of the overall Syrian exports during the same period. AL-BAYAN met with Dr Matanyus Habib, Syrian minister of oil and mineral resources, regarding the status of Syrian oil production and discoveries.

The Syrian oil minister said the volume of Syrian oil production has not yet stabilized, and current output ranges from between 350,000 and 400,000 barrels a day. These are distributed between the oilfields discovered by the Syrian Oil Company and those discovered by the contracting companies operating in Syria.

Regarding the size of Syrian oil reserves, Dr Matanyus Habib said the estimates available on the size of these reserves are not accurate, and that any figure given in this regard would be meaningless because it can change from day to day. The Syrian oil minister attributed this to the fact that exploration is still in its early stages. He said there are 25 drilling rigs in operation and the results of their exploration are reported on a daily basis. He indicated that current exploratory operations cover less than a quarter of the country's area, which means it will be a long time before the rest of the Syrian areas are explored. He said initial studies indicate that all these areas are promising. He added that the Syrian Oil Company discovered commercial quantities of gas and oil in areas where the contracting companies dug dry wells. This, he said, has prompted some foreign companies to return and prospect for oil in these areas, which were considered to be fully- explored oil-free areas. In light of these facts, the Syrian oil minister voiced optimism that Syria will be one of the major oil producers that will play an effective role in the world oil market and in international oil policy. He stressed that all the oil companies operating in Syria emphasize that the land is promising and that Syria will be a major oil producer in the near future. The Syrian oil minister said that the arrival of a large number of foreign companies possessing geological information and satellite photographs, as well as the results of digging and inspecting old wells demonstrate the presence of large quantities of oil in Syria. He added that Syrian authorities are working seriously toward exploring this oil as soon as possible. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

Military Convoy Reaches Kabul From Soviet Border

BK2311154089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1454 GMT 23 Nov 89

[Text] Kabul Nov 23 (AFP)—Hundreds of trucks, buses and military vehicles, including 200 tanks, arrived here Thursday from northern Afghanistan along the key Salang highway, military officers and witnesses said.

The military convoy of 200 tanks and 100 other vehicles, including armoured personel carriers and armoured cars, set out from Hayratan on the Soviet border early Wednesday, an army officer said.

Dozens of civilian trucks, tankers and buses, which had joined the convoy were also seen rolling past the Salang checkpoint on the outskirts of the capital late afternoon.

The officer said 400 non-military vehicles had made it down the 400 kilometre (250 mile) long land link with the Soviet Union, the only one on which essential supplies can reach the Afghan capital by road. Moscow however has kept Kabul supplied by a continuous air-lift of food and ammunition since the Soviet troop withdrawal was completed in February. The troops lining the mountainous Salang, known to Soviet troops as the "lifeline," were among the last to be pulled out.

A witness counted about 70 Soviet-made tanks and a similar number of other military vehicles parked off the side of the road before a medal awards ceremony.

The officer said the tanks and other vehicles would be kept in Kabul for the next few months unless needed urgently elsewhere.

Unconfirmed reports here had said 800 tanks were waiting at the border to head south and east to the main battle fronts with the rebel mujahidin resistance in provinces bordering Pakistan.

The Salang highway, often snowbound in the depths of winter, was blocked by the mujahidin for almost two weeks earlier this month, according to unofficial sources, causing prices to spiral. It has been open since the weekend.

The military officer said the convoy had passed along the road without incident. Mujahidin guerrillas regularly cut the Salang pass and the road is blocked for days on end until the military clears a path or strikes a deal with the rebels, according to observers.

More on Arrival of 'Large' Convoy

LD2311175489 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 23 Nov 89

[Excerpts] A large armored convoy of the Special Guard General Command arrived today in Kabul via the Salang highway. The BIA military section reported that this convoy, carrying armored supplies and military equipment, alson played an active role along with the units and subunits of the Armed Forces along the highway in clearing the Salang highway. They inflicted crushing blows on those who rob and plunder the basic materials needed by our compatriots.

At a meeting held on the arrival of this convey on Pol-e Charkhi region, Major General Sayd Azam Sa'ed, commander of the Special Guard, spoke about the duties and responsibilities of the Special Guard personnel to defend the country, independence, territorial integrity, and the national sovereignty of the homeland. He recalled with appreciation the devotion and heroism of the men and officers who displayed their ability in getting the convoy to Kabul, and in the mopping up and combat operations along the highway. [passage omitted] Simultanous with the arrival of the armored convoy of the General Command of Special Guard, a large supply convoy, carrying basic materials needed by Kabul's inhabitants, also arrived.

Mujahidin Intensify Operations on Salang Highway

BK2311025489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 23 Nov 89

[Text] The mujahidin in Afghanistan have intensified their operations against the Kabul forces along the Salang highway. The Afghan news agency MIDIA [MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN] has reported that the Kabul forces suffered many losses in men and materiel. The mujahidin captured seven officers and soldiers as well. Radio Moscow also confirmed the closure of the Salang highway by the mujahidin for the last 9 days.

Mujahidin 'Parliament' Election Set for Apr

BK2311024689 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 23 Nov 89

[Text] The election for the interim parliament [shura] of Afghanistan will be held in next April and the election process will begin later this year. This was stated by Pir Sayyed Ahmad Gaylani, the chief of the Central Election Commission of the Afghan Interim Government, at a news conference in Islamabad yesterday. He said the parliament will consist of nearly 500 members who will be elected by the Afghan mujahidin and refugees.

India

Further Reportage on Elections, Violence

Bombings, 'Vote Rigging,' Deaths

BK2211165889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1655 GMT 22 Nov 89

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 22 (AFP)—The first round of India's closely fought election battle ended Wednesday

amid bitter charges of vote rigging and after scattered violence countrywide left at least 28 people dead and scores injured.

On a day that saw brisk turnout especially among the young in 15 states and five Union Territories, the bitterest charges came from the northern constituency of Amethi, contested by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, who is fighting for political survival against a near-united opposition.

The opposition charged that hired thugs and police captured ballot boxes in Amethi, threw bombs to intimidate voters and beat up opposition candidate Rajmohan Gandhi, grandson of Mohandas "Mahatma" Gandhi. "This resorting to brute force deployed under the command of police officials is a bigger defeat for Mr. Rajiv Gandhi than the electoral defeat he was heading for," Mr. Rajmohan Gandhi said in a statement.

The prime minister's Congress (I) Party was quick to deny the accusations as an opposition ploy to win sympathy for Mr. Rajmohan Gandhi and hit back with charges that the opposition had let loose "barbaric violence" in other parts of India. Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, a Congress (I) spokesman said, was assured of victory the moment he filed his nomination papers in Amethi and did not need to rig the ballot.

The right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party (Indian People's Party) immediately called for Mr. Gandhi's resignation, and the Janata Dal (People's Party), on whose ticket Mr. Rajmohan Gandhi is running, demanded a repoll. As ballot boxes throughout India were being sealed, the Election Commission said in a statement issued here that it was awaiting reports from its officers on the spot before deciding whether a repoll would be called.

The commission said a total of 50 polling booths were "captured" but did not say by which parties, while state-run television reported that repolling had been ordered in more than 120 polling stations in Andhra Pradesh and the eastern state of Rajasthan. Counting of votes, which will determine whether Mr. Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) Party stays in power, is scheduled to start Sunday.

The next voting sessions, staggered over three days because of the sheer size of the 500 million-strong electorate, will be held in 10 states and two union territories Friday and Sunday.

Many pundits and at least two opinion polls have written off Congress' prospects of winning another term in office following unproved but damaging charges of corruption in a 1.3 billion dollar defence deal involving the Swedish firm Bofors.

An opposition victory would be only the second one in India's post-independence history.

Mr. Rajiv Gandhi dismissed suggestions of an imminent defeat and predicted "we will win" after casting his ballot in the New Delhi constituency. Party Spokesman Anand Sharma said later that the Congress was sure to return to power.

Election Commission officers said reports of vote rigging had been received from several of the 221 constituencies of the Lok Sabha (lower house) which went to the polls Wednesday stretching from snowbound areas in the southern Himalayan Mountains to the monsoon-swept Andaman Islands in the Indian Ocean.

Voter turnout appeared to be about 60 per cent or about 120 million of the 200 million eligible voters, many of them reportedly women and young, first-time voters, national television said.

The most serious election-related violence was reported from the opposition-ruled southern state of Andhra Pradesh where state-run All India Radio reported 10 people had died. N o details were given.

Six people were killed and 37 injured in clashes between supporters of Mr. Gandhi's Congress (I) Party and opposition workers in Haryana in the north, which is governed by the opposition Janata Dal (People's Party), news reports said.

Eight others including a policeman who died of gunshot wounds were reported killed in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh, Mr. Gandhi's home state from where he is seeking a third term in Parliament.

One person died in communist-ruled Kerala in the south and another in Kerala and three in Tripura in the northeast.

An AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE reporter in Uttar Pradesh's Bareilly constituency said a Congress (I) candidate, Islam Sapir, running for the state assembly in concurrent polls, had been detained along with his workers. Police charged him with brandishing pistols in an attempt to capture two voting booths. Bomb blasts could be heard in parts of the constituency, witnesses said.

In the northern state of Jammu and Kashmir, where Muslim militants had called for a boycott of the polls, voter turnout was reported to be a low 25 to 30 per cent. Officials said militants had carried off 11 ballot boxes at gunpoint, but that despite indiscriminate firing in some areas no deaths or injuries were reported.

A total of 2,569 contestants, most of them independents with no party affiliation, were in the fray Wednesday. More than 6,000 nominees are fighting for seats in the Lok Sabha.

1st Phase of Polls Detailed

BK2311033889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 Nov 89

[Excerpts] The second phase of polling involving 266 Lok Sabha constituencies will be held tomorrow in 10

states and 2 Union Territories; 408 assembly constituencies in Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh will also go to the polls simultaneously. Electioneering in these places ended yesterday evening. Tomorrow's Lok Sabha elections will be for Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Manipur, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Dadra Nagar Haveli, Pondicherry, parts of Bihar and the remaining constituencies of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir. [passage omitted]

The first phase of polling was completed yesterday in 15 states and 5 Union Territories with voters turning out in moderate to heavy numbers to elect their representatives for 221 Lok Sabha constituencies; 568 assembly constituencies in Andhra Pradesh, Goa, and part of Uttar Pradesh also went to the polls.

The first phase of polling was by and large peaceful with reports of violent incidents in Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, and Tripura. Complaints of booth capturing have also been made by various political parties in some constituencies.

Kerala, Arunachal Pradesh and the Union Territories of Chandigarh and Andaman and Nicobar Islands recorded 70 to 75 percent polling. Delhi, Haryana, Goa, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Daman, and Diu recorded 60 to 65 percent of polling. It was, however, 50 to 55 percent in Mizoram, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Orissa and Jammu and Kashmir. The maximum turnout of 84 percent was reported from the lone Lok Sabha constituency of Lakshadweep. Over 80 percent polling was reported in Tripura.

In Andhra Pradesh, booth capturing and poll-related violence were reported from a number of districts resulting in the death of 20 persons. Repolling will be conducted in 200 polling booths in the state tomorrow. The number may go up when information from all districts is received.

In Haryana, four persons were killed in Bhiwani and Hissar constituencies when some miscreants opened fire.

In Uttar Pradesh, six persons were killed in separate incidents during the polling yesterday. They include a police subinspector. Repoll has been ordered at three polling stations in Atrolia segment of Azamgarh District. It will be held tomorrow.

In Tripura, three persons were killed in a bomb blast in a village near Agartala. Polling was suspended in five polling booths in East Tripura reserved parliamentary constituency. The state election commission has recommended holding of polling in these places on Saturday [25 November].

In Rajasthan, repolling has been ordered in 10 polling booths of Sawai Madhopur parliamentary constituency.

The final round of polling will be held on Sunday covering the remaining 37 Lok Sabha constituencies in Punjab, Sikkim and parts of Bihar. Elections for the Sikkim assembly will also be held on same day. The counting of votes is scheduled to take place at 1100 on Sunday [0530 GMT on 26 November] and the results will start coming in after 1700 the same evening.

The Election Commission has said that no candidate will be allowed to change his party affiliation after a certificate of election is issued to him. The deputy election commissioner, Mr R.K. Bhalla, told newsmen in New Delhi yesterday that there is a column in the nomination papers in which every candidate is required to declare his party affiliation. Even independent candidates, after election, are not allowed to join any political party under the antidefection law.

Plans for 24 Nov Polling Updated

BK2311152189 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 23 Nov 89

[Text] The stage is set for the second phase of polling tomorrow for 266 Lok Sabha constituencies spread over 10 states and two union territories. Four hundred and eight assembly constituencies in Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh also go to the polls simultaneously. The Lok Sabha elections will be held in Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Manipur, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Pondicherry, and Bihar. Elections will also be held in the remaining 15 constituencies in Madhya Pradesh, 33 in Uttar Pradesh, and 2 in Jammu and Kashmir. Polling will be completed in 10 constituencies of Uttar Pradesh where partial polling was held yesterday. At stake are the electoral fortunes of 2,976 candidates. Prominent among them are Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, Mr Madhav Rao Scindia, Mr P. Chidambaram, Mr V.P. Singh, Mr Arun Nehru, Mr Madhu Dandavate and Mr Chandrasekhar.

The final round of polling will be held on Sunday covering the remaining 37 Lok Sabha constituencies in Punjab, Sikkim, and Bihar. Elections for the Sikkim assembly will also be held on the same day.

Meanwhile, security has been further tightened for tomorrow's poll in view of some violent incidents during the polling yesterday. In Bihar, elaborate security arrangements have been made for the polling in 31 constituencies. Elections for the remaining 23 Lok Sabha seats will be held on Sunday. In Uttar Pradesh, all arrangements are complete to ensure smooth polling. Over 3 crore 20 lakh voters are expected to exercise their franchise. Elections are also being held simultaneously for 184 assembly constituencies in the second and final phase in the state.

In West Bengal, over 3 crore 90 lakh voters will exercise their franchise to choose 41 representatives to the Lok Sabha.

In Karnataka, about 53,000 security personnel have been deployed to ensure a smooth conduct of polling for 28 Lok Sabha and 222 assembly seats.

In Tamil Nadu, about 4 crore voters will elect 38 representatives to the Lok Sabha tomorrow from 455 candidates.

Manipur goes to the polls tomorrow amid tight security in sensitive areas to elect two Lok Sabha members.

In Jammu and Kashmir, over 18 lakh voters will exercise their franchise in the remaining two constituencies in Jammu, Punch, and Udhampur Doda. There are 45 candidates in the fray for these two Lok Sabha seats.

Electioneering ends tomorrow in 13 parliamentary constituencies in Punjab which go to the polls on Sunday. Electioneering also ends in Sikkim tomorrow for one Lok Sabha and 32 Vidhan Sabha [legislative assembly] seats.

The election commission has ordered repoll in 636 polling stations where elections were held yesterday. These are 460 in Andhra Pradesh, 92 in Uttar Pradesh, 57 in Haryana, 17 in Rajasthan, and four in Orissa [figures as received]. The repoll in Andhra Pradesh includes 58 polling stations where elections were adjourned.

Speaking to newsmen, the chief election commissioner, Mr Peri Sastri, announced in New Delhi today that wherever repoll has been ordered, the date for polling will be fixed after receiving the reports of the chief electoral officers of the concerned states. Replying to questions by newsmen, Mr Peri Sastri said that the commission will analyze each and every case of alleged malpractices and fix the responsibility.

The chief election commissioner also said that the central observer in the Amethi parliamentary constituency in Uttar Pradesh is reaching New Delhi tonight for further consultations. He told newsmen that a special team will visit Amethi tomorrow to inquire into the alleged violent incidents there.

Gandhi Violates 'Code of Conduct'

BK2311160389 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Nov 89

[Text] The Election Commission has held that the prime minister's announcement on 19th November about the 5,000 crore-rupee Indira Mahila Kalyan Yojana [Women's Welfare Program] amounted to a borderline violation of the model code of conduct for political parties and candidates.

The chief election commissioner, Mr R.V.S. Peri Sastri, told a press conference in New Delhi today that it would have been better if Mr Gandhi, as Congress-I president, avoided announcing this scheme as he was also holding the post of prime minister. He said the commission will be informing the prime minister about its views on the matter. However, Mr Sastri said, on the basis of the reports from the concerned departments of the government it has been found that the scheme prepared by the union government and the one announced by Mr Rajiv Gandhi are not identical.

Probe of Gandhi Campaign Ordered

BK2311163089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1625 GMT 23 Nov 89

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 23 (AFP)—India's Election Commission bowed to pressure Thursday and announced an investigation into charges that the ruling Congress (I) Party had rigged the ballot in Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's constituency.

The decision, on the intervention of President Ramaswamy Venkataraman, followed demands by opposition parties and a self-appointed election watchdog group for a new ballot in Amethi.

The 45-year-old premier is opposed in Amethi by Rajmohan Gandhi, the grandson of Indian independence Hero Mohandas "Mahatma" Gandhi, no relation of Rajiv Gandhi who is the grandson of statesman Jawahar Lal Nehru.

Chief Election Commissioner R.V.S. Peri Sastri, whose autonomous office has been clouded by charges of a pro-government bias, said a special team of Election Commission officials would investigate the alleged vote rigging. He told a crowded news conference here the team would travel Friday to Amethi in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh. He added that the probe would be completed and a decision taken in the shortest time possible.

In case the investigation is not completed before results from the staggered, three-day general elections begin to come out Monday, the Amethi verdict will be withheld, Mr. Peri Sastri said.

"Whatever action we will take will be in accordance with the law," the chief election commissioner said. "Based on facts we will not hesistate to order a repoll," he added.

Observers said the vote-rigging allegations, whether true or false, had the potential to create an impression that Mr. Rajiv Gandhi had been in danger of losing Amethi and possibly influence the vote for the remaining 303 seats.

"Every polling station became a police station," in the Jagdishpur area of Amethi, alleged Magsaysay award-winner L.C. Jain, an economist and Mr. Rajmohan Gandhi's chief aide. "The Election Commission is asking us to furnish proof that booths were captured," he told a news conference here. "The reality is the entire constituency was captured." He asked the commission to take a "broader view of the situation," adding: "Like Caesar's wife, he (Mr. Peri Sastri) must be seen to be above suspicion."

But whether a repoll in Amethi would be complete or partial would depend on the findings of the probe panel, which will be headed by Election Commission Secretary C.L. Rose, the longest-serving official in the commission.

A repoll has already been ordered in 578 polling stations spread over six states which voted Wednesday, the maximum of 402 in opposition-governed southern Andhra Pradesh.

Mr. Peri Sastri said the special probe, instead of a routine enquiry which the commission conducts in such cases, had been ordered because of the "special nature" of the allegations. He said Mr. Venkataraman had written to him calling for "appropriate action." In addition, a self-appointed watchdog group of eminent citizens called "Independent Initiative" which approached the president had demanded a repoll. The group includes former Supreme Court Judge V.R. Krishna Iyer, whom Mr. Peri Sastri called his "guru."

Independent Initiative activists joined opposition supporters in a peaceful sit-in outside the Election Commission Thursday demanding a new ballot and presented an appeal asking the panel to "rise to the occasion."

Rajni Kothari, a political scientist and member of the group, called the alleged vote rigging in Amethi a "clear sign of panic" in the Congress (I), whose prospects of winning a new mandate have been written off by surveys.

Congress (I) spokesman Anand Sharma dubbed the charges part of an opposition conspiracy to have a new Parliament constituted without Mr. Gandhi and added that the charges were an opposition "smokescreen" to hide irregularities in other constituencies. He told a news conference, seen as an effort to contain the damage, that the Congress (I) did not favour a repoll, and that the party was set to take its own evidence of opposition electoral malpractices to the Election Commission later in the evening. However, none of the evidence concerned Amethi, on which the party would accept the Election Commission's verdict, he said.

V.P. Singh Calls for Resignation

BK2411091089 Hong Kong AFP in English 0854 GMT 24 Nov 89

[By Pratap Chakravarty]

[Text] Fatehpur, India, Nov 24 (AFP)—India's opposition leader Friday called for Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to quit for alleged ballot rigging in his constituency, as an Election Commission panel flew there to investigate the charges.

The call here from Janata Dal (People's Party) leader Vishwanath Pratap Singh, India's shadow premier, came as Indians went to the polls for the second of three rounds of parliamentary elections.

Long queues were seen outside polling stations in this tiny town and its rural outskirts of Fatehpur constituency, from where Mr. Pratap Singh is seeking to enter the federal parliament.

Mr. Pratap Singh, 58, was greeted by approving crowds as he went around the sprawling constituency in a convoy accompanied by security men and reporters. He said he was making the rounds to prevent what might be "a repetition of Amethi." It was a reference to reports that Mr. Gandhi's Congress (I) Party had organised violence and rigging during Wednesday's polling in the nearby Amethi constituency, where the premier is seeking a third parliamentary term.

An Election Commission (EC) panel flew Friday to Amethi to investigate the rigging charges, Chief Election Commissioner R.V.S. Peri Sastri told reporters in New Delhi. Mr. Sastri said the investigative panel headed by EC Secretary C.L. Rose was expected to return to New Delhi on Saturday. A decision on a repoll—demanded by the opposition—would be made in the shortest time possible, he said.

"I am going around to see that Amethi is not repeated here," Mr. Pratap Singh told reporters, adding that the Congress (I) Party had smuggled "carloads of arms and ammunition into Fatehpur for booth capturing." Journalists here Friday saw no evidence of armed men, other than government security.

More than 10,000 police and para-military forces, supervised by 37 magistrates armed with shoot-on-sight orders, were patrolling Fatehpur, where a Hindu leader's murder November 18 sparked Hindu-Muslim fighting. But witnesses reported that voters, ignoring fears of possible violence Friday, were queuing up outside polling booths in large numbers, many carrying green flags with the Janata Dal's election symbol, a six-spiked wheel. In 10 booths near here, 60 per cent of voters had cast their ballots within the first two hours, officials said.

Mr. Pratap Singh, who is the best bet for premiership in the event of an opposition victory in the staggered general elections, demanded Mr. Gandhi's resignation following the vote-rig charges in Amethi. "He (Mr. Gandhi) has totally lost the confidence of the Indian people," he said, and demanded a repoll in Amethi and the dissolution of the Lok Sabha, the lower house of parliament. Mr. Gandhi has no right to remain as the prime minister," he added.

Indian newspapers reacted angrily Friday to the alleged rigging, calling it a disgrace to Indian democracy.

The Congress (I) has denied charges of engineering violence and rigging in Amethi, with Mr. Gandhi quoted as saying that there was no need to try to influence the results. "Everybody was voting for us in Amethi," the premier said in reports published Friday.

The premier's chief opponent in Amethi is Janata Dal candidate Rajmohan Gandhi, the grandson of Indian

independence hero Mohandas "Mahatma" Gandhi, and no relation to Rajiv Gandhi, who is the grandson of statesman Jawahar Lal Nehru.

As Mr. Pratap Singh's motorcade halted briefly near voting stations for last-minute subtle campaigning, pro-Janata Dal voters chanted slogans in Hindi hailing him and criticising the ruling party. Most reports have said that Mr. Pratap Singh, a former chief minister of northern Uttar Pradesh State of which both Amethi and Fatehpur are a part, will win in Fatehpur, where his main rival is a junior federal minister, Harikishan Shastri of the Congress (I). Supporters of Mr. Shastri, whose campaign has been subdued, complained that Mr. Pratap Singh's presence was itself "intimidating."

The Janata Dal leader said he expected "large-scale booth capturing" by Congress (I) workers in Fatehpur's Muslim-majority Kishanpur area. Muslims are largely expected to vote for the Janata Dal throughout India.

Mr. Pratap Singh has been campaigning intensely over the past fortnight in the neighbouring states of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, from where he arrived here early Friday.

Opposition Candidate Injured

BK2211155189 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Nov 89

[Text] Agency reports say that Mr Sanjay Singh, who is a Janata Dal candidate for the U.P. [Uttar Pradesh] state assembly, was today shot at near Bhasiawa, 5 km from Amethi. He was reportedly injured and admitted to the district hospital in Sultanpur. A journalist and a press photographer were also stated to have been injured in the incident. When contacted, the police authorities, however, did not confirm the reports.

Iran

Foreign Ministry on Mu'awwad Assassination

NC2411063289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 24 Nov 89

[Text] With regard to the assassination of Lebanese President Rene Mu'awwad, Mr Sarmadi, the Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman, commented on the latest developments in Lebanon: We call on the Lebanese nation, all Muslim and national forces, and all those who desire the solidarity and territorial integrity of Lebanon to recognize with the utmost vigilance, this critical period replete with conspiracies and we call on them to combat the same. Our correspondent spoke to the Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman on this subject:

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Mr Sarmadi, we heard in the news that Rene Mu'awwad has been killed in West Beirut as a result of an explosion. How do you view this incident in your capacity as spokesman of the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran? In your opinion, what effect will the assassination of Mu'awwad have on the Lebanese situation?

[Sarmadi] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Yesterday's incident which culminated in the killing of Rene Mu'awwad removes another veil from the actions of Western arrogance and its regional allies, Israel and Iraq, that supportMichel 'Awn and pressure the Islamic and national forces of Lebanon to grant more concessions to political Maronism and, in the end, to effect the complete surrender of Lebanon to Israel. From the very beginning it seemed quite predictable that in view of the decisions taken in al-Ta'if, any kind of flexibility toward the domineering political Maronism and the confirmation of the tyrannical factionalist system would only increase their demands for more power. The Lebanese nation would, in fact, have only two options. Either they would have to look forward to another era of hardship, bloodshed, and crisis in the country so that the way must be paved for a plan to dismember Lebanon, or the Lebanese Muslim nation would grant more privileges to the Maronite faction in Lebanon; in fact, their domination would increase in areas under the influence of the Lebanese Islamic forces. In addition, East Beirut would also be under Michel 'Awn.

In any case, we are following the latest developments in Lebanon very closely. We call on the Lebanese nation, all national and Islamic forces, and all those who desire the unity and territorial integrity of Lebanon to recognize this critical period which is replete with conspiracies aimed at extorting concessions and to combat them. In our opinion, if anyone wishes to resolve Lebanon's problems at their roots, they should assist in eliminating the factionalist system and in creating a just government based on the opinion of the majority of the people of this country. [end recording]

Khamene'i Delivers Speech at Khomeyni Mosque

LD2211142189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Nov 89

[Excerpt] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution, delivered a detailed speech this morning in a meeting with various groups of Hezbollahi ummah at the newly constructed Imam Khomeyni Hoseyniyyeh, may his soul be sanctified. In his speech he referred to the daily increase in the growth and influence of pure Muhammadan Islam in human societies, and while stressing that the enmity of world arrogance toward the Islamic Republic of Iran is due to the adherence of this system to Islamic principles, he emphasized the need to provide for the people's economic needs from inside the country by making use of existing resources and capabilities, as well as the need for moving toward complete economic independence and freedom.

In this meeting, in which the visitors expressed their strong sentiments and affection toward the esteemed leadership, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i graciously said: In certain societies, such as African and

Asian countries where people have reached the end of their endurance due to the tyranny and oppression of satanic powers and arrogant systems and are looking for a new path and a new ideology, the true, Koranic, and uncompromising Islam which calls on its followers to adopt a new way of life is spreading and growing.

The vice regent [vali-e amr] of Muslims condemned the cruel, corrupt, and decadent rulers who are ruling in the name of Islam but who are obedient and subservient toward the United States, and said that they are hated by Muslims. Referring to the fact that the uprising of believing, aware, and free Muslims for establishing the sovereignty of true and uncompromising Islam in Islamic countries demonstrates the gap between the Islam prevalent in those countries and true Islam, he said: Islam today is on the move and this is in itself one of the miracles of Islam and the Koran. Ever since the Muslim Iranian nation, with the success of the revolution, succeeded in establishing the religion of God within the framework of a social system, a fear of Islam has been instilled in the hearts of the arrogant. From that time world powers started their efforts, struggle and propaganda, and the expenditure of vast sums of money for [words indistinct]. Undoubtedly, the fight of world arrogance against the Islamic revolution of Iran is due to Islam and the adherence to Islamic principles. They regard it, therefore, as a great danger.

Referring to the struggle and opposition of Western rulers and politicians against manifestations of Islam, the leader of world Muslims added: Despite the pressure which exists today in the world against Islam and against Muslims, the hearts of the people, especially the youth, the intellectuals, and aware people are turned toward and attracted to Islam. This will guarantee the spread of true Islam because Islam which is based on the true nature of human beings and struggle against all manifestations of tyranny and oppression will remain and can rule over the world and can attract individuals toward itself.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i described the Islamic system and teachings as a means to free the nations from all chains and bondage. He graciously said: In today's world in which mankind has been divided into oppressors and those who submit to oppression, the Iranian nation has proved it is free from the influence of all bullying powers. Today none of the great powers is able to exert influence on the system of the Islamic Republic and the valiant Iranian nation.

Continuing his remarks the leader of the Islamic revolution referred to the importance and value of the political freedom which exists in the country and stressed the need for economic self-sufficiency. He said: We should become completely independent economically, and our nation should, according to its own judgment, establish the industries and manufacture the goods needed by the country. Gradually, as the result of initiative, efforts, and management skills, the country should move toward complete economic freedom and independence based on political independence.

The leader of the Islamic revolution pointed out the efforts of world arrogance, led by the United States, to prevent people and the revolution from achieving its great aims. He added: Every government and adminstration that is trying to lead its country toward independence and necessary wealth will be hated by the powers and by world arrogance. Today, when the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran is making plans for true construction and for the country's post-war reconstruction and is making every effort to achieve that which is worthy of the revolution, the Islamic Republic is in the true sense of the word hated by world powers.

The vice regent of Muslims referred to the anxiety of world arrogance regarding the efforts of the revolutionary, alive, and aware Iranian nation in the construction, reconstruction, and the advancement of the country on the basis of planning and strong leadership. He said: Our enemies hope the country's difficulties will remain intact forever so that they can indoctrinate the people of the world with the concept that Islam is unable to run the country, because they know that the strength of the Iranian nation will be a model and a prototype for other nations.

The leader of the Islamic revolution warned those who are adding grist to the enemy's propaganda mill, and graciously said: Those who question the government's constructive efforts and well-thought out plans are helping the United States and arrogant propaganda. They should show some fairness and intelligence in understanding the current issues of the country and avoid taking sides with the enemy.

At the end of his remarks, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i spoke about the propaganda ploys of the enemy for creating doubt and ambiguity in the minds of the public, and added: Certainly, this fighting, brave, faithful nation which relies on Islam and which is prepared to confront world arrogance will have a bright and sweet future. With reliance on God, we will be able to completely expel the enemy whose influence and pressure on the people are causing difficulties for our people in their everyday life. [passage omitted]

Khamene'i Message Read at Basij Assembly

LD2311175989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Nov 89

[Excerpts] The eighth grand assembly of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] Basij [mobilization] bases and resistance regions commanders throughout the country was opened this morning next to the immaculate tomb of His Holiness Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be admitted to God's paradise, with a message from His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution.

According to our correspondent, present at the ceremony were President Hashemi-Rafsanjani; Hojjat-ol Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni; Mohsen Reza'i, IRGC commander in chief; Mohammad 'Ali Rahmani, head of the Basij; and a number of the commanders of the Islamic Republic of Iran. At the ceremony, 'Abdollah Nuri, interior minister and representative of the supreme jurisconsult [velayat-e faqih] at the IRGC, read out the Iranian Armed Forces' commander in chief's message.

The text of the message of the His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution, is as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The anniversary of the Basij's establishment brings to mind the glorious memory of the efforts which, during the 8 years of the imposed war, drew up the most beautiful scenes of self-negation, self-denial, and nobility and humility, coupled with courage. It brings to mind the memory of the chaste and proud youth who were lions during the day and pious at night. [passage omitted] It is a reminder of the great men who had little claim to fame, yet took it on themselves to defend divine values; who did not fear the falsely fearsome appearance of the powers, powers that came to fight against divine values in an effort to preserve the ignorant culture of the West. [passage omitted]

Basij week is, meanwhile, full of the memory and name of that superman of world stature [bozorg-mard jahandar], whose call could address the inner egos and receive replies from the depth of lives. [passage omitted] Imam Khomeyni captured the impregnable fortresses of arrogance, one after the other, with his divine weapon. He intimidated the head arroganct power, that is the world devourer, the United States. He shook the throne of empires that had no contenders. He awakened world Muslims. With his warm breath and his weapon of hope, he organized resistance cells. He created the Islamic Republic and guided it up to the summit of power and credibility, passing through labyrinths and thousands of obstacles and encounters. Many times he was able to frustrate the Islamic Republic's most dangerous enemies, the ringleaders of the Western regimes. He warned the guardians of the Eastern regimes to be aware of the defect of their antireligious and inhumanistic thoughts.

It is not yet 1 year since he wrote his prophetic and historic letter to the head of Eastern power [M.S. Gorbachev], and now the world is witness to the disintegration of Marxist regimes throughout the world. [passage omitted]

On the Basij anniversary, the main point which the Basijis and the entire Iranian nation should realize is that the arrogant powers of the West today see themselves confronted everywhere by Islam. They sense danger from Islam. They regard any symptoms of attention to Islam as the vanguard of a serious danger to their own power and interests. It is obvious that pure Mohamadan Islam, which does not tolerate tyranny and moral corruption in human life, is a real danger for the regimes which have been founded on the basis of injustice, corruption, and permissiveness. That is why all the satanic powers of the world today are utilizing the most violent means in their campaign against the reflections of Islam; they trample on the most obvious principles about which they have, thus far, shouted slogans.

In occupied Palestine, those Muslims who, disregarding the treacherous compromises, continue their right-seeking struggles with empty hands while being subjected to oppression through violent and inhumane methods. The women, children, and elderly among them are being tortured and annihilated in the hands of the Zionist soldiers—who have their orders. And yet, none of the many claimants to human rights among the Western governments, not one, makes any noise. The United States, United Kingdom, and some others, meanwhile, provide verbal and practical encouragement and support.

Israeli jets bomb the homes and refuges of the Lebanese Muslims, in addition to the camps of the victimized Palestinian refugees; men and women, young and old, bystanders and the civilians are killed; a respected cleric is abducted at midnight by the mercenaries of Zionism. And yet, not even a single person from among so many Western governments adopts a serious position, from among Western governments that for years have made the condemnation of terrorism and kidnapping the focal point of all their remarks and that accuse every government that is against their interests of that. Nobody is affected by the acts of a government that bombs the homes of another country's people or engages in kidnapping. In some Islamic countries, under the shadow of governments infatuated with the West, the purest and most intrepid Muslims are regarded as sabateurs; they are treated with violence and are subject to prison terms, torture, and execution.

In Europe and in countries which call themselves the cradle of democracy, Muslims are subjected to discrimination; their rights are denied; and they even live under pressure and oppression. They are condemned explicitly on charges of following Islam. What has been termed as the battle of the headscarf in France and some other European countries in recent weeks is in fact a hasty and tactless campaign by the ringleaders of the Western culture against the phenomena which they regard as a reflection of the culture of Islam and a sign of the ever-increasing influence of Islam. In confronting such influences, they lose their patience and serenity in a way that suddenly even heads of states appear arrayed in a struggle against a handful of small girls who are committed to God as well as a handful Muslim families who are devoted to Islam. Those are the same people whose deceptive cries in defense of liberties and the rights of the individual have deadened the world's ears. When there is a protest against a writer, who blatently abused the sanctities of 1 billion Muslims, they appear as defenders of the freedom of expression and individual's

right to his beliefs. Yet, when one talks of a Muslim woman or girl who wants to dress according to her religious belief, then individual freedom is forgotten and everything finds a different color. Then every antimoral movement and every movement against liberties and individual rights is given to name of a campaign against reaction. Spit on mendacious, hypocritic, and deceitful people.

In many European countries, Muslim minorities are subjected to intimidation, discrimination, and humiliation. Yet, they interfere in all the affairs of other countries under the heading of defending human rights. They do not even hesitate to instigate ethnic and religious motivations in cases which they deem necessary. They do not make the slightest reference to the usurped rights of the victimized peoples. With their silence and possibly with their deed, they sanction the injustices which are brought on Muslims.

In some Asian countries, large Muslim minorities are subject to the same fate. As everybody knows, Muslims today are confronted with vast and unbridled injustice.

In various parts of the world, the enemies of Islam look at mosques—which are the bases of human liberty, the place of man's relation with God, and a center for learning about the mischiefs of satans of gold and power—with a deep hatred. They fight against the existence, the presence, and the activity of mosques as far as their powers allow. Already the Al-Aqsa mosque, which is the second qiblah [the direction Muslims face when praying] of the Muslims—thanks be to God, a base for awareness and struggle—is the target of abuse by the filthy Zionists. In France and India too, the mosque has been exposed to insult and destruction.

The sum total of these events and similar examples clearly expose the alarming fact that today the powerholders of the world and the administrators of the regime of dominance in the world regard Islam as a great danger. They regard the revival of the pure Mohamadan Islam, peace be on him and his scion, in Iran as a serious threat, not only to their regional interests, but also to their global interests, which have been crystallized in practice in the preservation and stabilization of the regime of dominance: the division of the world into dominant and subject countries. They have come with all their power to fight Islam for that reason, and above all they are the enemy of the hope-inspiring spring of that divine blessing, which is the victorious Islamic revolution and the sacred Islamic regime in Iran.

Awareness of the fact and attention to its various dimensions require the intelligence and serious will-power of the totality of the Iranian nation and Muslims of the world; they must learn the ways and means of confronting the plots hatched by the enemy.

Of course, during the past 10 years our nation has learned of a variety of enemy plots and has confronted them. Thank God, in most cases, our nation has been the winner. Meanwhile, the definitive divine tradition is one in which victory belongs to the side of right, who is endowed with divine help and self-sacrificing and unwavering will. This is what we experienced in the past and after the revolution until today, and it is what has been realized throughout the history of all prophethoods which the Koran repeatedly discusses. However, the condition for victory is to rely on God, to believe in him, and to be on guard, to be prepared and serious, to preserve unity, and to be immune to enemy propoganda.

Today, one of the enemies' efforts is devoted to destroying the ray of hope in the heart of our nation, thus making it pessimistic toward the situation in the country, as well as the authorities and administrators. The gap which the enemies are willing to create is the same thing which, God forbid, if they succeed in doing, will open their hands and the hands of their cursed stooges at home to deal blows to the country and the revolution. That has been the perpetual target of the enemy and will remain so. For this reason the dear imam insisted every time that the bond between the nation and the authorities be stronger.

If during the reconstruction period, the government can get rid of the difficulties resulting from the 8-year-long imposed war, as well as the difficulties imposed by foreign enemies, and enable the Islamic system to provide answers for the material and spiritual needs of the nation—and through God's will and the hidden imam's prayers, may our lives be a sacrifice to him, the government will be able to do so—in that case, the greatest blow will be delivered to world arrogance, which has always tried to portray the Islamic system as being unable to properly and correctly administer the country. It was for this very reason that world arrogance imposed the war and other difficulties upon our country.

Therefore, the success of our valiant nation in reconstruction work will mean the defeat of world arrogance and the victory of the revolution. This will not be achieved except through the sincere and all-round cooperation of the people and their revolutionary patience and determination. Therefore, in the same way that the enemy insists on creating a rift between various strata of the people, especially between the people and the officials, the nation should insist upon cooperation and solidarity among various strata of the people, especially between the government and the nation. Moreover, through utmost vigilance, they should recognize the sly insinuations of the enemy and move in the opposite direction.

Now, to draw the attention of the dear nation to a few points, I will briefly make a few reminders:

1. The Basij has come into being to defend the Islamic country and the Islamic revolution. Today and forever, preparedness for defense is an islamic, revolutionary, and national duty. Therefore, the Basij resistance forces should continue the work of attracting and administering the dear Basijis through correct planning and bring the plan of a 20, million-strong Army into reality. The

esteemed government and judicial officials also, while helping to implement the IRGC's plans for the completion and strengthening of the 20-million-strong Army, are dutybound to resolve the difficulties of the Basij members in government departments. They should not hurt the feelings of those beloved ones, who through their own sacrifice, have protected the revolution and the country through usual administrative methods and customary bureaucracy, nor, God forbid, give rise to the despondency of these trusted supporters of the revolution and the country. Such behavior by any executive or judicial official will be regarded as a violation and will be subject to reprimand.

2. Today the mobilization of the faithful and self-sacrificing elements, should also regard the reconstruction of the country as their other goal, in addition to the defense of the country and the revolution. Today is a day when all forces should mobilize in the battlefields. The government should act like the Basijis and encourage capable Basij forces to be present in the fields of reconstruction and, through comprehensive planning, should define the position of every individual in the country's reconstruction crusade. Every individual, too, by preferring the interests of reconstruction to individual interests, should engage in a self-sacrificing crusade in this field.

3. In the same way that we were determined and serious in the war, we are also serious and determined in the observance of the cease-fire and movement toward a lasting peace. The course of the talks shows, however, that the Iraqi regime is not prepared to accept the truth, and that even at the discussion table it continues to speak with the same aggressive attitude it demonstrated in the battlefields. In addition to the Armed Forces and the IRGC, therefore, brave Basijis and resistance cells should also always maintain their preparedness and vigilance so that if necessary, they can engage in the duty of holy defense.

4. The people's general unity is a sign of God's bounty and our nation's most blessed resource. All should try to safeguard this asset; no one should be allowed to set fire to this divine asset and this peerless resource by sowing the seeds of division and differences. Differences of opinion, differences in political and economic views, and in judgments regarding what is in the country's interest among the brothers who are united and unanimous in the principles of the revolution and of Islam should not lead to hostility, fights, and arguments.

5. I urge all our dear nation's individuals to adopt an attitude of fraternal optimism toward other brothers and of vigilant suspicion toward aliens and enemies. If the propaganda of world arrogance is trying to bring about an atmosphere of suspicion and hostility inside the country, we should, despite the enemy's wishes and through our suspicion towards the enemy, expel any suspicion toward our Islamic and revolution brothers. Those orators and writers and those who have the capability of talking to and with the people should be careful that they do not create pessimism and despondency in the climate of people's lives in the interests of world arrogance and in keeping with the propaganda of world arrogance; instead, they should spread the song of optimism and hope.

6. The propaganda of the Americans and their allies are trying to instill this thought, that the time of revolutionary enthusiasm has come to an end in Iran and that the revolution has changed its former course.

Despite the enemy, we announce—and all should, in practice and in words, demonstrate—that the Islamic revolution has not given up its path of struggle against tyranny, arrogance, and corruption, and will never do so. If the world bullies naively imagine that this fortress of the deprived, this supporter of the oppressed, and this base of struggle against world arrogance, tyranny, and domination will for a moment forget its great goals, they are sadly mistaken. We are still, and will forever remain, the supporter of deprived nations, which are under the yoke of world arrogance. We will always stay on the side of the Muslims, the valiant and struggling Palestinian nation, and against the criminal Zionism, and we will always stay there.

We urge our Palestinian brothers to continue in the path of God, that is, the struggle against the usurping enemy and its supporters, through trust and reliance upon God, until the usurping Zionist government is completely destroyed. Our great nation and our believing and self-sacrificing Basijis regard the defense of Palestine as a religious duty, and in the path of God, they will not regard any goal as unattainable.

We will always defend the rights of the wronged Afghan nation against those who have acted through force or deceit. And we believe that the Afghan nation, which through the sacrifice of thousands of martyrs, has succeeded in expelling foreign forces from its house, under the shadow of reliance upon God and by giving up hope in interfering powers and those serving them, will be able to establish an Islamic system independent of East and West and based on the nation's wishes and will in its country.

We have always regarded ourselves dutybound toward the steadfast and wronged Lebanese nation, which has become the victim of a joint Zionist-Maronite-U.S. conspiracy. This is our path, the will of illustrious imam, and the command of our Islam. We will always remain faithful toward this duty.

7. I am extremely worried and anxious about the fact that a number of people are trying to propagate the culture of love of luxury, wastefulness, and extravagance. I take refuge in God, in fear of the possibility that the self-sacrificing and revolutionary people of Iran may be led toward consumerism in their personal lives and forget revolutionary thrift. Those who engage in luxury and unnecessary excesses and extravagance due to a mindlessness which is the outcome of excessive wealth and financial well-being should come to their senses and

should turn toward philanthropy. And those who impose this kind of living upon themselves despite their poverty and shortages should refrain from this harmful practice. For the rich people moderation, for the poor people modesty in their personal lives, and for everyone effort, labor and production, and improving the general well-being are revolutionary and Islamic duties.

I beseech God Almighty for the success of all in the path of the achievement of the sublime goals of our dear Islamic revolution. I send greetings to the great soul of our imam and our illustrious leader, and I beseech Almighty God for the exaltation of the ranks of all the martyrs, especially the Basij martyrs.
[Signed] 'Ali Hoseyni Khamene'i

Our correspondent reports that after the reading of the message of the Islamic revolution's leader, Rahmani, the official in charge of the IRGC Basij unit, described the activities of the Basij of the Oppressed during the last 10 years. He said: So far, 5 million Hezbollah people have had military training. During the 8 years of sacred defense, 3 million Basij members were at the fronts, creating great epics in about 100 [number as heard] regular and irregular war operations. Today, the Basij is one of the most powerful guardians of the Islamic revolution.

The Central News Unit reports that in those ceremonies, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani pointed to the exalted position of the Basij within the culture of the Islamic revolution. He stated: We owe this honor to the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, who took this initiative at the outset of the revolution and paved the way for the entry of the best members of society into the arena of jihad, selflessness, and reconstruction [sazandagei]. The president emphasized that the Basij is an institution that must play a fundamental role in the future of the country and the revolution. He then pointed to the facilities that the Majlis has ratified for the combatants' sake. He said that 40 percent of the universities' quotes are allocated exclusively to combatant forces, and this year we witnessed thousands of selfless combatants who found their way into the universities. He then pointed to Rahmani's report and added: Within the current year, 20,000 Basij members have entered universities. This figure is more than one third of the total number of students who have been accepted to the country's universities. The president urged the Basiji university students to show the same spirit of resistance and selflessness in education as at the fronts. He added: The ratification of the bill on combatants' cooperatives in the Majlis and the priority given to the employment of combatants in governmental organs have both provided the combatants with the possibility for their productivity and employment. The officials in charge of relevant organs are dutybound to provide the combatants with the means for innovation and training in subjects which are required by the country.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani continued: Today it is the esteemed leader of revolution who is your commander, the leader who was present on the fronts at your side. With the inspiring message he has sent to you, he has determined the course for the Basij movement. The president then stressed: We have never been warmongers; we proved our desire for peace within the process of peace negotiations. He then urged the country's Basijis to continue their bonds with the Basij forces and the bases of resistance, and to maintain their combat readiness through learning military techniques. As our leader in his message emphasized the continuation and expansion of the Basij path, military training for the combatants should continue because this is the general line of our country's policy and the key to the eternal spirit of the revolution.

In those ceremonies, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni pointed to the steadfastness and resistance of the Hezbollah people in the face of the various conspiracies hatched by the enemies of Islam. Such spirit, he said, caused the debacle of liberals and other groups who did not succumb to Islamic strictures. He said: Despite the existing problems, we cannot retreat from our Islamic criteria, and we will stand against the United States with all our might. He concluded by pointing to the people's effective role in furthering the government's objectives.

The Central News Unit's report also said that Mohsen Reza'i, the commander of the IRGC, also described the performance of the IRGC's Basij unit during the 8 years of sacred defense. He said: Governments throughout the world became dependent upon the superpowers' diplomatic and technological might to preserve their power. However, the Islamic Republic of Iran, during the last 10 years, through the spirit of the selfless and brave Basij members, proved to the world for the first time ever that one can preserve one's independence without relying politically and economically on super-criminals. He noted the fact that progress achieved by the Islamic revolution is always conditional upon the progress made by the Basij. He said: Although the guns on the fronts against the agents of arrogance have been silenced, one must be vigilant because the fire of hegemonism and the mischief of global arrogance and its regional agents have not been put out yet.

In conclusion, he pointed to the message of the His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of Islamic Republic, and emphasized: For the purpose of safeguarding the country's independence and confronting the possible conspiracies of the enemies of Islam, Basij will be present on the scenes of Islamic revolution with stability and strength more than ever before.

Emami-Kashani's Friday Prayers Sermon on Basij

LD2411120789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Nov 89

[Text] On the threshold of the Basij Week, Muslim compatriots today held the political-religious rites of Friday prayers throughout the country. The people of Tehran, meanwhile, held the political-religious Friday

prayers today under the leadership of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Emami-Kashani at Tehran University and the adjacent streets.

Referring to the anniversary of the issuance of the charter establishing the Basij by his holiness the imam, may his soul be admitted to God's paradise, the acting Friday prayer leader of Tehran, in his second sermon said:

The idea of establishing the Basij and the 20-million strong army is one of the great legacies of his holiness the imam, may his soul be admitted to God's paradise. It created epoc-making ballads during the 8-year period of the imposed war. The country's Basijis, carrying the banner of Islam, taught the world lessons in freedom and detachment [from materialism]. Such a development, which embraced the spirit and ideas of our youth, is unique in the history of divine messengers.

Referring to the message of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution, on the occasion of Basij Week, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Emami-Kashani said: The leader placed great emphasis on reconstruction and construction, as well as massive participation by the society's forces in that great effort. Eight years [as heard] after the start of the imposed war, we are in dire need of reconstruction. One of the principles that must receive attention is the necessity to highlight the importance of labor and activity. In our Islamic regime a love for culture, sincerity, unity, and solidarity is an element that must dominate the work environment and industrial relations. It is under such conditions that work and activity will achieve its true value. Meanwhile, the universities, educational centers, and the Ministry of Education must place the revival of industry and agriculture at the top of their executive programs. To attain such an objective one must attach importance to labor and workers, industry and agriculture, science and ideas, and expertise. One must employ all the powers of the forces [as heard] and resources of the people in reconstruction and construction. In performing this great task, the people are partners with the government.

Necessary resources for reconstruction and development must be placed at the disposal of young, active, specialized, innovative individuals and those with initiative. The government must utilize such capital. The owners of capital must help the government in this great task, and individual methods must not be raised [as heard], because a society determined to be constructive must also be solid, active, sincere and optimistic so that, side by side with moral and political growth, it may achieve a sound economic growth.

KEYHAN on 'Government-Sponsored U.S. Terrorism'

NC1611143489 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 6 Nov 89 p 18

[A. Arshadi commentary: "The Iranian Majlis Contests Official U.S. Government Terrorism"]

[Excerpts] A bill has been approved permitting the U.S. President to issue a ruling to abduct citizens from any country and be sentenced by U.S. judicial authorities if they have committed crimes against the lives of Americans or so-called U.S. interests in any country. Following this move, the principle of capitulation [preceding word in English] will thus be imposed on these other countries' political systems.

In order to retaliate against this bill, which is nothing more that aggression against the sovereignty and independence of other countries, a double-urgency legal motion was approved by the Majlis to accelerate the campaign against government-sponsored U.S. terrorism. This motion guarantees the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran permission to take the necessary measures to arrest and punish U.S. citizens who have been sentenced by an Iranian military tribunal. [passage omitted]

With this valiant step, the Majlis has proven that the Islamic Republic of Iran is the first independent system in the world prepared to defend internationally accepted lawful values with action accompanied by appropriate propaganda activity on the international level. This will definitely have the following three results:

A. All governments that have maintained silence over U.S. aggression that has violated their sovereignty will be answerable to world public opinion and to the opposition factions within their countries, particularly in the European countries. Such silence will prove a useful weapon in the hands of their opposition factions.

B. All the parliaments in the world that were inclined to take steps similar to that debated by the Majlis within the framework of Article 1 and were apprehensive about rising up against U.S. imperialism as flag-bearers can now follow the Islamic Republic of Iran's pioneering example without any fear and take lawful steps to defend their sovereignty.

C. The third and most unqualified effect of this revolutionary act on the part of the Majlis will be on those governments which use the terms "revolutionary" or "progressive" describing themselves.

The latest U.S. accusations that other governments are "terrorists" also include certain countries against which the United States itself has carried out military attacks in the past few years. In defending the independence and sovereignty of world political systems against U.S. aggression, the Islamic Republic of Iran invites all these governments to support such an action and enter this arena. If they do, then an extensive international defense against U.S. aggression will be begun. If they do not, it will result in making the world an area in which only one combatant gladiator will introduce the hallowed system of the Islamic Republic of Iran. This will once again affirm the loftiness of the values of the Islamic revolution to global public opinion. [passage omitted]

With the approval of such a bill, the Majlis of the Islamic Republic of Iran intends to make the U.S. Government understand that the world today and the world of Islam in particular does not tolerate for one moment any aggression against the rights or independence of nations. Regardless of when it initiates an attack or aggression, the U.S. will realize that is is beyond its power to terminate the situation.

TEHRAN TIMES Condemns Soviet Deal With Iraq

LD2311090289 Tehran IRNA in English 0700 GMT 23 Nov 89

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 23, IRNA—The English daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' said Thursday that Soviet's signing of a multi-billion dollar deal with Iraq under the present conditions "reveals its lack of concern about peace and calm in this part of the world."

"This economic agreement should be seen against a backdrop of uncertainty and the new round of tension brought about in the region because of Iraq's sabotage of the U.N.-sponsored ceasefire Resolution 598 with Iran," said the daily in its editorial.

The Soviet Union and Iraq are supposed to sign an agreement exceeding dlrs. six billion in value during Saddam's visit to Moscow in a near future. The agreement includes a project to build a gas pipeline giving Iraq access to Central Europe's market.

The English daily stressed that the agreement certainly was not going to serve peace.

Referring to the indifferent approach of the five permanent members of the Security Council, the editorial said that 'none of these world powers seem to have a sincere interest in establishment of a real peace.'

It said that Moscow not only failed to meet Iran's expectations for helping to bring peace, but also adopted "policies that will only prove a stumbling bloc to peace."

"As the things stand, it is natural for Tehran to take such dealings on the part of Moscow into consideration as it might affect politico-economic relations with the USSR in the long run," concluded the English daily.

Majlis Deputies Assail Iraq's 'Obstacles' to 598

LD2211144589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Nov 89

[Text] At the end of today's Majlis open session, a letter signed by 141 deputies concerning the Iraqi regime's obstacles to the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 598 was read.

The letter refers to the remarks by the Iraqi foreign minister which demonstrated a lack of respect for international treaties, particularly the 1975 treaty. The letter states that the Security Council's silence over Iraq's procrastinations and leaving the secretary general on his own under these circumstances will force us to continue our resistance and steadfastness as a way of achieving true peace, in the same way that, for the purpose of preserving the Islamic revolution and its achievements, we have relied on no other force except God almighty and the Muslim and honest forces of this homeland. Furthermore, as our leader and our popular president have both repeately said, we will make no compromises in gaining the return of every inch of our territories and in defending our Islamic revolution.

Iraq Rejects Demand for Release of POW's

LD1911165389 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 19 Nov 89

[Text] The Iraqi regime rejected the Islamic Republic of Iran's proposal regarding the release of the POWs simultaneous with the start of the withdrawal of the forces. According to a Central News Unit report, Iranian Minister of Foreign Affairs Velayati announced:

To break the deadlock in the talks and to show goodwill, the Islamic Republic of Iran is prepared to release the POWs in a humanitarian gesture, simultaneous with the start of the withdrawal of the forces to behind the internationally recognized boundaries.

In response to Iran's adoption of this position, Tariq 'Aziz, the minister of foreign affairs of the Iraqi regime, in an interview rejected Iran's proposal. According to AP, Tariq 'Aziz also regarded the 1975 Algiers accord as void, saying: From the Iraq's viewpoint the Algiers accord is a dead issue.

Iraqi Cease-Fire Violations Reported to UN

LD1611064189 Tehran IRNA in English 0558 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] United Nations, Nov. 16, IRNA—64 new cases of Iraqi violation of the 15-month-old Iran-Iraq ceasefire were reported to the United Nations by Iran on Wednesday [15 November].

The cases cover violations committed during the period of 12-22 August which include troop movements, digging of channels, seizing an Iranian watch post, construction of road, establishment of fortifications and watch post, installation of armaments such as machine guns and mortar launchers, digging trenches and conducting flights.

President Urges Cooperation Among Gulf States

LD2211195889 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 22 Nov 89

[Text] The international conference on the Persian Gulf ended in Tehran this afternoon with a speech by Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president of the Republic.

At the concluding session of the conference, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani suggested that the littoral states of the

Persian Gulf should engage in cooperation among themselves based on recognized Islamic, humanistic, and international criteria.

Rejecting the possibility of continuing the U.S. policy of assigning a regional gendarme to the Persian Gulf, the president warned against the designs of those who draft imperialistic policies to create discord and struggle in the region in an attempt to justify the presence of domineering forces.

Stressing the value and the sensitive position of the Persian Gulf, as well as the value of studies regarding it from different dimensions, such as commercial, energy, environment, and strategy, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani drew attention to the covetous designs of the world powers toward the Persian Gulf, saying: The method of the domineering powers in the Persian Gulf has been to create a power in the form of a gendarme in the region in order to administer the region's affairs in a way desired by the colonial powers. To that end, the role of the ancient regime in Iran was entrusted to the Pahlavi family. Such a method was accepted by many of the governments in the region.

After the victory of the Islamic revolution of Iran the regional powers decided to entrust the role of the region's gendarme to Saddam. Thus, they had Iraq invade the Islamic Republic of Iran. However, with a coastline of only 30 km on the Persian Gulf and its lack of population, Iraq lacked the necessary resources to play such a role.

The president stressed: Under the conditions when the continued policy of utilizing a gendarme in the region has met with difficulties, it now seems that the imperialist policymakers are thinking of creating centers of discord and of implementing the policy of divide and rule in the region. In that way they hope to justify their presence in the region.

The president added: The Islamic revolution of Iran has upset the method of assigning a gendarme to the Persian Gulf. We are not ready, in any way, to be the guardian and protector of others in the Persian Gulf, and yet we will not allow anyone to adopt the title of guardianship and gendarme of the Persian Gulf.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed: We do not like the way in which the countries of the region intend to gain security under the protection of a foreign navy. The way which we suggest is one of cooperation among the countries of the region on the basis of recognized Islamic, humanistic, and international criteria.

Continuing his remarks, the president said: We have no territorial claims on any of our neighboring countries. As for Iran and Iraq there is the 1975 agreement, and it has determined our borders.

Referring to the negative experience which Iraq has gained from its 8-year long war with Iran—an experience forcing that country backward in economic and social affairs and which has caused tens of billions of dollars in foreign debts for Iraq—the president stated: If, during the next 20 years, Iraq tries to evade complying with the UN resolution, it will achieve nothing.

In conclusion, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed: We are ready to cooperate with the littoral countries of the Persian Gulf on an equal footing and in that way to make it possible for the people of the region to enjoy the God-given resources.

Velayati Addresses Gulf Conference Final Session

LD2311115389 Tehran IRNA in English 1027 GMT 23 Nov 89

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 23, IRNA—The 3-day 'international conference on the Persian Gulf' sponsored by the Foreign Ministry's Institute for Political and International Studies, ended work here Wednesday evening with a final report read by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

According to the final report, 78 out of 161 articles approved by the scientific council of the conference were read in three committees of: 1-politico, strategical, 2-economic, geographical, and environmental, 3-historical, legal and cultural.

Summing up the reports read in the course of the conference Velayati said that in the Economic Committee, the stress was laid on the significance of the Persian Gulf and its rich oil and gas deposits.

He told the participants that in connection with export of crude oil through the Strait of Hormuz and its share in the international oil market, the experts agreed that the role of the Persian Gulf has been relatively diminished presently in comparison with the past decade, but that it is expected to be restored in the next decade.

The conference also emphasized that Iran should seriously embark on the exportation of its natural gas to Europe and East Asia with the aim to embold its economy. The Islamic Republic also should keep pace with other regional states, with Iraq in particular, in its economic growth, Velayati said.

Cooperation and solidarity among the Persian Gulf states within the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) was also considered as very effective way to stabilize the international oil market and oil prices, he added.

On the regional trade, several speakers pointed out that presently the volume of commercial exchanges among the littoral states is trivial in comparison with their overall foreign trade but that it can be boosted, said Iran's foreign minister. The northern and southern states of the Persian Gulf have complementary economies and traditional trade relations, the report said adding the export of Iran's non-oil commodities to these states could be increased.

As for the result of the Geographical and Ecological Committee, Velayati said that the littoral states can widely cooperate in environmental protection projects and navigation in the Persian Gulf.

Velayati also summed up discussions held in the Political and Strategical Committee of the conference which he said emphasized existing common aspects. It referred to Islam as common religion and oil as the main source of income among the regional states both of which should be employed as a means of further consolidation of ties among them.

The analysts in the conference voiced the conviction that the need for political cooperation among the regional states is felt now more than any time else due to the current developments in the international arena where superpowers are losing their influence in the region, he said.

On the role of superpowers in the Persian Gulf, all the speakers referred to radical changes in the Soviet foreign policy. It was said that Moscow is no longer interested in interfering in the regional issues. However, on the contrary, the American foreign policy has not changed at all and that it continues to pursue its domination-seeking role in the region.

On the work of the Legal and Historical Committee Velayati said that it suggested establishment of a Persian Gulf university for all applicants from the regional countries to study history, Persian and Arabic languages, theological science of Shiite and Sunni Muslims as well as sociology and art.

The committee also laid emphasis on the validity of 1975 accord between Iran and Iraq and considerd unilateral annulation of the pact by Iraq contrary to international norms and against the very context of the accord. The commitee said that the 1975 pact is a prerequisite in the progress of peace negotiations between the two parties, he said.

Final session of the conference, held by Center for Persian Gulf Studies, was also addressed by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Some 400 domestic and foreign experts from 37 countries including nine Arab countries participated in the forum. The participants also tour several ports on the Persian Gulf. 35 foreign newsmen as well as many Iranian journalists covered the conference.

Velayati, Libyan Envoy Discuss Ties, Meeting

LD2311160989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Nov 89

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, Mahdi Ambirash [name as heard], secretary of the Libyan People's Bureau, met and conferred today with Foreign Affairs Minister Velayati. Having remarked on the strategic importance of the two country's relations, Mahdi Ambirash expressed the hope that the second joint Libyan-Iranian cooperation commission, which is to meet in Tehran next week, will reach practical and tangible results in areas of expanded commercial exchanges and technical and industrial cooperation between the two countries.

Mr Velayati also welcomed this meeting, saying: We attach great significance to expanded ties with Libya and will endeavor to make the two country's joint commission a total success.

Turkey's Ozal Sends Message to President

NC2211090989 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1700 GMT 19 Nov 89

[Text] The Turkish ambassador in Tehran, Omer Akbel, was received by Foreign Minister Velayati in Tehran today. Ambassador Akbel gave Velayati a message from President Ozal of Turkey to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. According to IRNA, the message is related to the establishment of a regional academy in Istanbul and the holding of a conference in that regard.

According to the same report, Foreign Minister Velayati has congratulated Turgut Ozal and Yildirim Akbulut on their election as Turkey's president and prime minister. He also expressed the hope that relations between Turkey and Iran will develop.

Aqazadeh Receives Pakistani Energy Minister

LD2111210289 Tehran IRNA in English 1747 GMT 21 Nov 89

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 21, IRNA—Pakistani Minister of Petroleum and Natural Resources Jehangir Badar in a meeting with Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh here Tuesday [21 November] called for expansion of economic and technical cooperation between the two countries. The Pakistani minister is here to participate in the first ever international conference on the Persian Gulf which opened yesterday.

Aqazadeh expressed hope that during his forthcoming visit to Pakistan he could discuss issues of mutual interest including the transport of oil products via Pakistan.

Editorial Assails India's Position on Muslims

NC1711123689 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 12 Nov 89 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Factional Conflicts and the Definite Responsibility of the Indian Government"]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the almighty, the merciful. The great land of India is witnessing bitter and regrettable incidents these days. A country that could be the land of understanding among the followers of various beliefs and religions has today become the scene of evil deeds which recall sinister events in India's history that remind one of the colonialists and the fomenting of factional conflicts.

The Indian Government can still take effective measures and play a positive and influential role in establishing understanding between the followers of various beliefs and religions. Apparently, however, it has still not taken seriously the great responsibility that it has in this issue, and this carelessness and failure to understand responsibility by the Indian Government can have dangerous consequences that could upset the stability and calm in this vast country. [passage omitted]

The Indian Government naturally should be able to understand the basic fact that the government responsible for such a large country as India, where so many different beliefs and religions exist, should be able to play the role of sympathetic father and try to bring the views of these different beliefs as close as possible to achieve greater understanding and calm.

What the Indian Government has been doing recently, however, and the confrontations involving the Indian police demonstrate that there are people in India's decisionmaking centers who are trying to fan the flames of factional conflict to attain their sinister objectives through irresponsible actions. [passage omitted]

These bitter and regrettable incidents have undoubtedly hurt the feelings of the huge Muslim society in India. The Indian Muslims should be alert, however, so that their pure sentiments will not be exploited. At the same time, the Indian Government, also, should assume its definite responsibility and by taking effective steps and adopting a serious approach to the recent regrettable incidents, should prevent the spread of factional strife. This is not how the Indian Government has reacted to these incidents up to this point. The opportunity still exists for it to make up for its past mistakes and adopt a firm, logical, and responsible position. This position will undoubtedly lead to stability and calm in India.

Letter to President Criticizes Contract Companies

LD2311171589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Nov 89

[Text] In today's open session of the Majlis a letter from 138 deputies addressed to the president was read. A part of the letter referred to the formation of certain organizations in the name of contractual companies [shekathaye mozarebe'i]. It said: Undoubtedly the growth and the continued activities of such companies will give rise to economic chaos, and lead to high prices and inflation and greater shortages in society. Therefore, in order to strengthen the fiscal and banking system of the country, to prevent inflation, high prices, and fabricated shortages, it is expected that the following steps will be taken:
1. The government should take necessary steps to prevent the flow of people's deposits to foreign countries by fradulent companies.
2. The government will prevent the official registration of the constitutions of those companies and similar organizations and establishments at official and legal registry offices.
3. In order to terminate these companies, the government will take necessary steps; and the government will prevent the publication of advertisements and propaganda related to such organizations and companies.

Daily Urges Political Parties To Register

LD1611202389 Tehran IRNA in English 1532 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 16, IRNA—The Interior Ministry has been called on to provide necessary guidelines for political parties approved to operate legally and freely. In its editorial today, the TEHRAN TIMES referred to the upcoming parliamentary by-elections next month and called on parties eager to contest seats, to submit their applications to a commission set up for registeration in accordance with a Majlis act of September 1981.

Under Section 10 of the act the applicants must be given a reply within a three month period. If the commission does not do so within the prescribed period, the Interior Ministry has the right to right to proceed and approve the parties concerned, at its own discretion, it added.

However, it regretted that these parties are yet to announce their 'political manifestoes setting out their future plans and intentions on how they wish to proceed.'

The English daily said that political parties 'should be genuinely constituted and motivated to work in the interests of the country and be not merely groups with doubtful causes to promote.'

'The nation needs their help and also the lively and healthy debate that parties can generate to reflect the actual needs during the reconstruction phase that has just emerged in the country,' it believes.

Registration of Candidates for Elections Ends

NC2211080989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 22 Nov 89

[Text] The process of determining the competence of candidates taking part in the midterm elections of the third session of the Majlis started this morning. This was announced a few minutes ago by the head of the Interior Ministry's election headquarters in an interview with our correspondent. He added that there were vacancies in Majlis seats in Tehran, Kerman, Kuhdasht, Kashan, Karaj, and Kordkuy.

Under the electoral law approved by the Majlis, the Interior Ministry must coordinate with the Council of Guardians in those constituencies with vacant seats and hold elections as soon as possible. Therefore, the registration of candidates for the midterm elections started on 15 November and ended at the close of office hours yesterday, 21 November. A total 100 candidates registered for the elections in the six constituencies.

He added: After studying their competence and confirming their candidacy, the names of the candidates will be posted by the governors in their respective constituencies on 27 November.

Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant Nears Completion

LD1611191789 Tehran IRNA in English 1725 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] Bushehr, Nov. 16, IRNA—One of the war damaged reactors of the Bushehr nuclear power plant has been completed by 90 percent, said head of the Atomic Energy Organisation Reza Amrollahi today. When ready, the power plant will supply one fifth of the country's electricity needs.

The Bushehr nuclear plans was targetted by Iraqi forces several times during the imposed war despite international laws banning attacks on atomic plants designed for peaceful use of nuclear energy.

Lorestan Province Official on Drug Arrests

NC2311100289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 23 Nov 89

[Text] With the implementation of the first stage of the third phase of the "Val-'Aadiyat" program, four bands involved in distribution of narcotics in Lorestan Province have been broken up, and more than 6 kg of opium, 468 grams of heroin, and 1 kg of burned opium, as well as 13 weapons and 5,809 cartridges, have been confiscated and 26 smugglers arrested.

The commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Committee of Lorestan Province announced the above at a news conference yesterday, adding: A 12-member band that manufactured and distributed drugs and operated as a network in some provinces was identified by the province's Islamic Revolution Committee. A total of 517 addicts have been arrested and handed over to judicial authorities after the charges against them were drawn up.

3d Phase of Operations Against Drug Smugglers

2 Tonnes Seized in Yazd, Kerman

LD1911180989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Nov 89

[Text] Following the ceaseless battle of personnel of Islamic Revolution Committee [IRC] against the merchants of death, and on the 8th day of implementation of the third phase of the "Val-'Adiyat" operations, the Guards of IRC of Yazd and Kerman Provinces captured two important bands that supplied and distributed narcotics as they moved along the country's roads. All together 2 tonnes of narcotics were seized.

In one of those operations, which was carried out with the effective cooperation of the Gendarmerie personnel, five smugglers were arrested and two vehicles were confiscated. Furthermore, efforts are underway to identify and arrest the other members of those two bands.

Opium Found; Network Disbanded

NC2111072389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 21 Nov 89

[Recorded telephone report by unidentified correspondent in Kerman]

[Text] In the third phase of the "Val-'Adiyat" program in Kerman, the Revolution Guards of the Kerman Province Islamic Revolution Committee and the Abuzar Tactical Base staged a mopping up operation in 2,000 km of desert and identified and routed a drug distribution network from which they confiscated 555 kg of opium.

As part of the persistent struggle against the merchants of death and following 2 days of uninterrupted efforts, a coordinated intelligence-combat operation was carried out with the cooperation of the Kerman Province intelligence department in the central area of Kavir-e Lut in north Kerman. The operation resulted in the discovery of an opium consignment of 555 kg which had been brought into the country by armed insurgents and smugglers from Afghanistan. The Kerman Province Islamic Revolution Committee reports that nine people who cooperated with the leaders of this network have been identified and arrested in several other provinces. The consignment was to have been hidden in a truck and transported into the country for distribution.

During this successful operation, forces of the 103d Imam Reza Battalion and the 105th Zolfaqar Battalion affiliated with the Abuzar Tactical Base staged a mopping operation in an area of more than 2,000 km of desert with the support of the Islamic Revolution Committee's air unit.

This is the Central News Unit correspondent in Kerman.

Pakistan

Pakpattan Crowd Protests Against Punjab Chief

BK2211030289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 22 Nov 89

[Text] According to the ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN, a violent crowd in Pakpattan yesterday raised slogans against Punjab Chief Minister Nawaz Sharif and burned the Islamic Democratic Alliance flag and tires on several streets. The crowd was demonstrating against the refusal of the Punjab chief minister to grant district status to the Pakpattan revenue area. The demonstrators marched on the streets, hurled stones, and blocked several streets. The local administration later brought the situation under control.

Nusrat Bhutto Discusses Provincial Autonomy

BK2211041989 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 0300 GMT 22 Nov 89

[Text] The senior federal minister and chairperson of Pakistan People's Party, Begum Nusrat Bhutto, has said the issue of provincial autonomy should be resolved by rising above disputes like provincial television, Punjab Bank, and Ittefaq Foundary [a factory owned by the Punjab chief minister's family]. In a statement in Islamabad, she said the democratic government wanted to strengthen institutions and not individuals. The politicians desiring to have maximum provincial autonomy should adopt a resolution in the Punjab Assembly as was done by the Baluchistan Assembly, setting out the extent as they wanted it.

About distribution of powers between the president and the prime minister, she said a balance can only be achieved through mutual conciliation and consultations among the democratic forces.

The senior minister said they considered the problem of stranded Pakistanis in Bangladesh as a humanitarian issue and not a political one. Unfortunately, hartal [strike] and malicious propaganda are spread against the government among the urban populace of Sind that we are obstructing their repatriation to Pakistan. She pointed out that at present there are 3 million Afghan refugees in Pakistan. As soon as this burden lessens and appropriate funds are arranged, this problem will be resolved. She urged changing our thinking and said the opposition should not criticize just for the sake of criticism. We do not claim that our government was the best democratic government, but we do say that we intend to establish the best democratic system in the country, the senior minister added.

Spokesman on Plan To Strengthen, Modernize Navy

BK2311155689 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 23 Nov 89

[Text] A 25-year plan has been approved for modernization of the Pakistani Navy. A spokesman of the Pakistani Navy briefed newsmen in Islamabad today about measures taken to expand and modernize the Navy since the 1971 war [with India]. Many modern naval ships, submarines, missiles, helicopters, and aircraft were added to the Pakistani naval fleet during this period to strengthen it.

The spokesman said that the Navy has plans to construct a few more harbors along the coast to ease pressure on Karachi Harbor. These harbors are expected to be constructed at Ormara, Pasni, and Gwadar. Plans are also in store to construct 500 DWT [deadweight ton] ships within the country. These ships will be equipped with the latest missiles.

The spokesman expressed confidence that when the time comes the Pakistani Navy will not only keep the country's sea-lanes open, but it also will not allow a blockade of its harbors, thereby keeping the flow of essential items and the dispatch of goods unhindered.

The spokesman, while analyzing the naval forces in South Asia and the Indian Ocean, said it is imperative for Pakistan to possess an effective naval force to defend the national interests in time of peace and war. The spokesman assured that the Pakistani Navy is not only able to effectively defend the country's coastline in case of aggression, but is also fully capable of responding appropriately.

Syrian Air Force Commander Honored 19 Nov

BK1911164889 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 19 Nov 89

[Text] The president conferred the award of Hilal-i Imtiaz, military, on the commander of the Syrian Air Force, Major General (Muhammad 'Ali Milayachi) at a special ceremony in Islamabad today. The award was conferred in recognition of his contribution to improvement of relations between Syria and Pakistan and the air forces of the two countries.

Earlier, the Syrian commander of the Air Force called on the president to exchange views with him on matters of mutual interest.

The commander of the Syrian Air Force also called on the prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto. They exchanged views on matters of mutual interest.

Commentary on Pakistan's Role in Disarmament

BK1611150589 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 15 Nov 89

[Commentary by Syed Nazir Bukhari]

[Text] At all world forums Pakistan has never lost the opportunity to oppose the spread of nuclear weapons. The prime minister of Pakistan, in her various speeches and at her news conferences, has spoken against nuclear proliferation and made commitments that Pakistan would always support moves which stop the nuclear race and rid the world of any possible nuclear threat. Safety from nuclear weapons has always been a major concern of non-nuclear countries, especially of Pakistan.

In New York, at the UN General Assembly session Pakistan tries to convince the other nations of the world that constant efforts are needed to make the world safe from nuclear weapons and there is no possibility of the elimination of nuclear weapons from the world as it seems in the near future. So the urge of nuclear have-nots for guarantees remains (?undiminished). As usual, this year too Pakistan proposed at the General Assembly's main committee that an agreement be set on behalf of the nuclear weapons states that they will not use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear countries. A proposal has been made in a draft resolution which will be later discussed and approved by the General Assembly. This draft resolution has been also cosponsored for the first

time by Bangladesh, Iran, Madagascar, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. The resolution got 133 votes in favor, none against, with India, U.S.A., and Brazil abstaining. The interesting feature of the draft is that Pakistan has been presenting the same resolution for the last 15 years.

Pakistan was first prompted to move the resolution in the General Assembly after India exploded a bomb in 1974 and termed the experiment as a nuclear test, then, for peaceful purposes. Since then Pakistan has been building up the pressure that nuclear weapons should be eliminated altogether or non-nuclear states should be saved from their threat. The same stand was again taken by the Pakistani delegate who sponsored the resolution at the General Assembly main committee. He said that pending the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, non-nuclear weapons states may be accorded credible and legally binding guarantees against the use or the threat of the use of nuclear weapons. Such assurances, we may say, are necessary to enhance the sense of security in non-nuclear weapons states. It is a matter of concern that in spite of annual calls by the General Assembly in this respect, no concrete action has been taken to meet the objective. The lack of progress on an internationally binding agreement on the subject has increased manifold the general concern of the non-nuclear weapon states.

We off and on will hear unilateral declarations by nuclear states renouncing use of nuclear weapons, but such declarations have not allayed the apprehensions of countries not possessing nuclear weapons. Under such fears Pakistan had to propose that at least the South Asian region must be made safe from the threat of nuclear weapons. This proposal was also made at the UN committee meeting and has since been endorsed. However, the problem is bound to remain intact. The non-nuclear countries want firm guarantees for protection against nuclear attacks. The draft to be submitted to the General Assembly would reaffirm the urgent need to reach an agreement on security guarantees to non-nuclear weapon states. It also pinpoints the need for an international convention on the subject and that the idea will also be discussed in the disarmament committee. The draft also urges all the states, especially, the nuclear weapons states, to demonstrate the political will for reaching an agreement on the subject through a common approach and adopt a formula that should be included in an international instrument.

The passage of the resolution seeking guarantees against the threat of nuclear weapons is a test of sincerity of the nuclear weapons states. Until they come forward and satisfy the fears of the non-nuclear states through an international agreement, doubts about their genuine desire for world peace will remain as strong.